

MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY INC.

DULWICH HILL ENMORE LEWISHAM
ST PETERS SYDENHAM TEMPE

MARRICKVILLE PETERSHAM STANMORE
& PARTS OF CAMPERDOWN & NEWTOWN



OUR NEXT MEETING

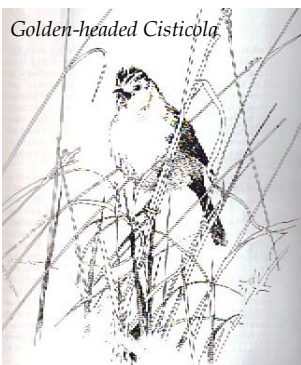
Saturday 27 September

Wolli Creek Walk & Cooks River Walk
(walks concurrent)

**Wolli Creek Walk with Peter Stevens
& Debra Little 8.45am-1pm**

Numbers are limited – prior registration and prepayment is essential. Cost \$8 individuals, \$12 families (both include a year's membership with Wolli Creek Preservation Society). Registration Peter on 9554 3176 or via info@wollicreek.org.au. Meeting place & more information provided upon registration. Wear good walking shoes; bring plenty of water and a snack.

More of an amble, this walk is a great introduction to the valley, its history and the issues facing it, with an extensive environmental commentary. It takes participants from Bexley North to Undercliffe covering about five km over a leisurely four hours and includes visits to several bush restoration sites, to the historic stone cottages in Jackson Place,



Golden-headed Cisticola

Undercliffe, and a screening of the epic *Battle of Nannygoat Hill* (five minutes). The walk is almost entirely on unmade and uneven surfaces, but is mostly level, easy walking. There are some minor ascents and descents, particularly the rocky side trips up and down Nannygoat Hill and Wolli Bluff (optional extras).

Cooks River Walk: 3 Bridges: an insight into Canterbury's early development with Joy Berville 10am-12 noon

Meet 10 am Canterbury Station for easy two hour circular walk, designed for RiverLife program. Leaflet supplied. Tour free but bookings essential. Ring Richard 9557 3823 or blairitage@optusnet.com.au

Tour (includes sugar mill, Sutton Park early foundations, the quarry, heritage houses, Convent, Memorial Park and Prouts Bridge) looks at the history and social issues relating to the river, and the social and economic reasons for the bridges over the river. Joy will discuss the pollution and local environmental matters, and how the RiverLife walks were developed to educate the public about the need to keep the river clean.

Notes: Both Wolli Creek Preservation Society and Joy Berville are MHS members. Peter is president of WCPS. Drawing by Gavin Gatenby. Two Valley Trail leaflet embraces both waterways. Coffee and chocolates afterwards at Adora Café on Homer Street near Cooks River is recommended.

HISTORY WEEK 6-14 SEPTEMBER



Life Membership of the Society was conferred upon one of our keenest members, **Margaret Sinclair** at our meeting on 23 August. The citation reads: "In appreciation and recognition of her many years of loyal membership, enthusiasm and gracious support of the Society". Also pictured is MHS President, **Scott MacArthur** (photo: Richard Blair)

AUSTRALIANA PIONEER VILLAGE IN WILBERFORCE NEEDS SUPPORT

Members who visited the Australiana Pioneer Village at Wilberforce in July know that a dedicated group of supporters is striving to have the APV formally reopened. They welcome individual letters of support to present to their local council. Address is The Friends of the Australiana Pioneer Village Society Inc., PO Box 7223, Wilberforce 2756. The Society is writing. To become a Friend ring Richard (9557 3823) or go to www.australianapioneervillage.org.au for a membership form. Membership \$20 pa; Associate membership is free, but no voting right.

COMMITTEE CHANGES

Beau Winter and **Mark Matheson** have both resigned from the executive committee, Mark after serving for many years. Existing committee member, **Vivien Wherry** has agreed to become Secretary. **Rowena Ward** has resigned as Public Officer and has been replaced by former Public Officer, **Diane McCarthy**.

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 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 valid until the end of May 2009.

SCHOOL OF ARTS PROJECT

The Association of Mechanics' Institutes and Schools of Arts (ASIMA) assisted by its oldest member, the Sydney Mechanics' School of Arts (SMSA, which this year is celebrating its 175th birthday) "is conducting a study to determine just how many Mechanics Institutes, Schools of Arts, Literary Institutes and their like existed in this state. These institutes were for many years an important part of Australian community life and, in many cases, continue to fulfil this role today."

The AMISA has been in touch with all Local Government authorities in NSW seeking further details of these institutions and their buildings. In relation to the Marrickville LGA they are specifically interested in the Dulwich Hill School of Arts, the Enmore Mechanics Institute & Reading Room, the Marrickville School of Arts, the Newtown School of Arts, the Petersham Working Mens Institute and the St Peters Free Public Library.

Marrickville Historian Chrys Meader has furnished detailed information about the Dulwich Hill, Marrickville and Newtown Schools of Arts. Chrys could find no information on the Petersham Working Men's Institute or the Enmore Mechanics Institute & Reading Room; she referred the AMISA to the City of Sydney who hold the records of the old Newtown Council. She was not previously canvassed about the St Peters Free Public Library.

Dr Elisabeth Richardson from the AMISA Research Team has indicated the City of Sydney does not appear to have any information for the Enmore Mechanics' Institute. However, they have ascertained there is another NSW town of Enmore located in Armidale Dumaresq Shire and this may well be the location. She is still searching for details of the Petersham Workingmen's Institute and it would seem that the Free Library may have no connection with the Schools of Arts and Mechanics Institutes.

The archive will be held either at the Sydney Mechanics' School of Arts or at the State Library from which they will develop a data base. They expect to publish a book of a more general nature on this topic. The project has burgeoned somewhat, they are now endeavouring to provide adequate details for the over 800 different institutions that have been identified. This is a rather bigger task than originally anticipated, but while ambitious it will hopefully be a significant one. It may be another two years before completion of the project.

Anyone with information about the Enmore Mechanics Institute & Reading Room or the Petersham Working Men's Institute could ring Elisabeth on 9953 3589, write to her at SMSA, Level 3, 280 Pitt Street Sydney 2000 or email librich@aapt.net.au. Elisabeth could also field general enquiries about SMSA; alternatively visit the website www.sydneysma.com.au.

Joan Francis advises of four Five Dock streets named after ships from the **Great White Fleet** – Connecticut Avenue, Illinois Road, Minnesota Avenue, New Jersey Road. To mark the centenary of the Fleet's visit, the **Australian National Maritime Museum** has an exhibition in the USA gallery until January 2009.

HERITAGE WATCH

Two recent votes by Marrickville Councillors have given lie to campaign promises by candidates in this month's council elections to protect heritage in our LGA.

165 Marrickville Road Marrickville is a badly treated shop in the Marrickville Road shopping strip, which nevertheless does still retain its original arched first floor window opening, harmonising with its neighbours although garishly rouged with bright red paint. The developers of the site propose to demolish the Federation era shop and replace it with a bland three storey shop-top residential building. In spite of Council's own planning and heritage advisors recommending rejection of the proposal, the Labor and Independent Councillors have approved the demolition and new development. (The Marrickville Road shopping strip was imperfectly protected for many years as a Commercial Precinct Draft Conservation Area until these same councillors combined to jettison this meagre protection.)

Another volte-face by some councillors poses an even more serious threat to the heritage and basic character of our LGA. It is the approval by the Labor and Independent Councillors of a "consolidation" town-house development on the site of two inter-war brick bungalows at **124-126 Livingstone Road Marrickville** (pictured below). Due to the sloppy drafting of the current LEP (which the NSW government will not allow to be fixed), developers can buy up small house sites, consolidate them so that they are more than 1500 square metres, and then erect medium density housing. Until recently, all Councillors had agreed that this was not the intention of the LEP and had consistently voted down proposals where large lots were obviously purchased opportunistically for high density developments, such as **Silver Street St Peters** and **Audley Street Petersham**. Labor and Independent Councillors have now thrown over this last barrier to unconstrained "consolidation" development.

Readers will remember the old song, "How could you believe me when I told you that I loved [heritage] when you know I've been a liar all my life?"

Scott MacArthur

124-126 Livingstone Rd Marrickville



GOOGLE STREET VIEW

An ambitious project, long contemplated by the Society has been to photograph every house in the Marrickville LGA. However, there is currently no need as anyone can access most streets and houses in the LGA and other parts of Sydney and the state at Google Street View. Road navigational directions are a major aspect of this facility. One potential issue is how these views could be 'preserved', should this program be discontinued.

ANNUAL NEWSLETTER REPORT 2008

As the Society enters its silver anniversary year I can report that since June 1984 there have been 263 monthly newsletters. I'd like to quote some of The Editor's report of February 1985 — "We've come a long way since our first meeting on 28 April 1984 and our first newsletter which listed the 18 founding members. We've now grown to 89 persons. During 1984 we've been able to establish very good working relations with Marrickville Council and have begun to establish links with community groups and institutions in the area. This month, for instance, we welcome Newington College as a member of the Society. All this expansion has only occurred, I believe, because the Society has struck a popular chord in Marrickville and will expand even further in 1985. It's hard to point to precise reasons because those involved in our Society are a very diverse bunch of individuals. Some have a special interest in houses and even bricks; some are keen to pursue ancestors; some are researching pottery and industry; some are looking into railways and communications; some are long-term residents whereas others have come recently to our area. The one thing they seem to have in common is a keen interest in our area and its rich and varied traditions, and an interest in communicating that interest."

I note that Newington College continues to retain its membership and Richard Cashman was that newsletter editor. The 89 members from early 1985 has now grown to beyond 400. One factor that makes our Society somewhat unique is that of our 357 memberships, about a third live outside the Marrickville LGA whilst 10% live outside the Sydney Metropolitan Area. Probably the most significant newsletter coverage for the year was the 150th anniversary commemorations of the Dunbar tragedy, whilst more recently we publicised some of the dreadful changes engendered by the state government in the area of planning and heritage conservation. We also gave the inaugural Essay Competition considerable coverage.

I'd like to thank some non-committee members for significant input Diane McCarthy, Susan Pinson, Graham Hunt, Norman McVicker, Chrys Meader and Shirley Doolan. I have again had a supportive committee but special thanks go to our president, Scott MacArthur, who continues to produce quality heritage watch coverage; and to Lorraine Beach, Keith Sutton and Ian Phillips for their untold support. Ever reliable is Shirley Hilyard as associate editor. Long before I took on the editor's mantle, Shirley was involved in the newsletter production. I thank Diane McCarthy for producing address labels for envelopes; Pamela Stewart, for over ten years posting newsletters and maintaining membership records; Ian Phillips for co-facilitating local newsletter deliveries; and for driving Ian two or three times a year each, Diane, Pamela, Keith, Graeme Napier and Tony Breinl.

It is customary to list the runners, whose efforts save this society over \$1500 a year, so bear with me while I acknowledge these stalwarts — Lu Bell, Richard Blair, Maree Blanchard, John Blattmann, 'Tricia Blombery & Stuart Grigg, Nigel Butterley, June Cameron & Ken Turner, Iain Carolin, Peter Cousens, Fred Ellis, Rosemary Fallon, Audrey Furney, Barbara Gibbons, Bob Hayes, Shirley Hilyard, Mark Matheson, Hillary Morrissey, Allan Outlaw, Ian Phillips, Peter Robertson, Pamela Stewart, Ken Swinbourne and Rowena Ward; with occasional help from Lorraine Beach, Barrie Dyster, Chris King, Margaret Ludlow, Diane McCarthy, Corinne O'Loughlin, Keith Sutton and Coralie Wickers. Thank you.

Report of Our Last Meeting (*Heraldry in Australia with examples from Marrickville LGA* with Stephen Szabo on 23 August) will be in October newsletter.

JARVIE PARK MARRICKVILLE

In the wake of the April address to the Society by Dr Peter Orlovich from the Geographical Names Board, and a list provided by him of local place names, I noticed that one park appeared on the list incorrectly — namely Jarvis Park, which is correctly **Jarvie Park**, off Malakoff Street Marrickville. My research revealed that Jarvie Park was named for **Milton Livingstone Fredericks Jarvie** (1891-1965), who was an alderman at Marrickville 1922-27 and Mayor of Marrickville in 1927. In the Marrickville Council Annual Report (1922) Jarvie was described as "the first returned soldier to be elected to the Council. A young man of pleasing personality, a ready debater, and keen student of local government, he promises to be a decided acquisition to the strength of the Council."

From Council's 1923 Annual Report: "A portion of the destructor site, which has been filled up to street level, and was unused, suggested itself to me as an admirable site for a children's playground." The garbage destructor was in Cecilia Street and the relevant land was bound by Northcote and Malakoff Streets. Adjoining Jarvie Park is Crusader Kindergarten.



Educated at Enmore High School and the University of Sydney, Jarvie served in the AIF 1915-1920 with the Australian Provost Corps, 1st Battalion as a major; he received a Military Cross and Efficiency Decoration. For almost ten years (1925-35) he was MP for Western Suburbs, then for Ashfield. He later had a successful business career. He was a foundation member of Legacy and a one time president of Marrickville RSL.

I notified the GNB which acknowledged the error and wrote that they look "forward to receiving further updates on the origin of place names from the Marrickville Heritage Society." Further information on the Society's Place Names Project should appear in the next newsletter. Data and photo from Marrickville Council History Centre.

Diane McCarthy

SPRING TRIVIA QUESTION

What, of significance in Australian history, happened on **21 December 1817**? Richard 9557 3823 or email blairitage@optusnet.com.au.

CALENDAR OF MHS EVENTS

Saturday 27 September

Wolli Creek & Cooks River walks

Details on front page

Saturday 25 October

Allen Madden on the history and cultural aspects of the Aboriginal peoples in this area

St Peters Walk

Saturday 20 September 2 pm

Relive the past through the history of its people and places with this tour of the St Peters area conducted by the St Peters Cooks River History Group. Meet at St Peters Church 187 Princes Highway.

Free but limited numbers. Bookings 9558 7504 or email: history@cooksriver.net

Lost Gardens of Sydney

Museum of Sydney, corner Bridge & Phillip Streets Sydney until Sunday 30 November

The exhibition is rich with paintings, drawings, photographs, plans, statuary, floral albums and botanical images, and will charm anyone with an interest in gardens and the environment and what has been lost!

DEMOLITION WATCH



This fibro cottage at **7 Hercules Street Dulwich Hill** (on the corner of Beach Road; photo by Richard Blair) dates from about 1900-10. From about 1920-2006 it was owned and occupied by members of the Chessell family, in particular **Ann Chessell** (1910-2002, a member of MHS for some years), along with her two children **Peter Chessell** and **Barbara Burnett**, both current MHS members. Before the house was sold in 2006, young Jack Burnett became the fifth generation of the one family in occupation. Ann's parents ran a produce store in Dulwich Hill and her father, and later Peter, both worked with Beynon & Haywood Removals for many years. The garage at the rear of the house was once a blacksmith's. Ann's charming sketches and oral history accounts of her beloved neighbourhood can be seen in Marrickville Local Studies Collection.

This house will soon be demolished thus ending the life of yet another old cottage with character and history. Often the rationale for demolition is that there are many other similar cottages extant, so we can afford to lose this one. Trouble is, one day, they may all be gone!

Richard Blair

The Brickmasters 1788-2008 by **Ron Ringer** tells the story of Sydney's brickmakers and their craft which can be traced back to the first weeks of European settlement in January 1788. As an alternative history of Sydney, *The Brickmasters* explores the impact of social, economic, technological and architectural change on one of Australia's most historic and vital industries. It also examines the profound effect on brickmaking and brickmakers of the Austral Brick Company and the enigmatic, yet brilliant figure of William King Dawes (1898-1981). Austral Bricks (1908) and Brickworks Limited (1934) can rightly lay claim to be the oldest surviving and most influential manufacturers of clay products in Australia since Federation in 1901. This casebound book (448pp, almost 500 images) is available for \$75. **Ron Ringer** addressed the Society on these topics in April 2006; he has written several HSC textbooks and *A History of Elgas* (2004).

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No Peacetime Cinderellas: Remarkable achievements by a remarkable pack of women by (MHS member) **Roslyn Burge** looks at 60 years of the War Widows' Guild of Australia in NSW. This hardcover book is available for \$50 through the Guild on 9267 6577.

VALE

MHS member **Joyce Hilda Allen** (nee Robertson) of Northmead, formerly of Audley Street Petersham, died on 5 August aged 83. An oral history of Joyce (recorded by Caroline Plim) titled *A Hard Life . . . But a Happy One* appeared in *Heritage 9* (1995). Joyce worked in Malles in Broadway, the Australian Woollen Mills during the war years, as a nurse at Marrickville and Castlewood Hospitals, Marrickville and in catering at Trethaway House, Petersham.



Joyce was married to Arthur Allen (deceased) and together they were involved in Scouting (6th Dulwich Hill), baseball, softball and Arthur's dance band. Our condolences to Joyce's family (photo: Joyce c. 1945).

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The Society notes the death of **Bruce Stephen Gardner** on 13 August aged 69. Late of Parramatta, Bruce grew up in the St George area, was an accomplished junior sportsman, joined Marrickville Council in 1956 and became Town Clerk in 1972, making him the youngest town or shire clerk in the metropolitan area. By 1990 when he resigned to become Shire Clerk in the City of Cairns, he was the longest serving town clerk/general manager of Marrickville Council. In July 1986 Bruce addressed MHS on the history of administration in the Marrickville municipality. In the August 1986 newsletter report, Bruce indicated that "council's responsibilities had developed from merely 'rates, roads and rubbish' to the provision of a wide range of 'people' services." Bruce was predeceased by his wife, Vivienne. Our condolences to Bruce's family.

PRESIDENT Scott 9559 5736

HERITAGE WATCH Scott 9559 5736

NEWSLETTER EDITOR Richard 9557 3823