

MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY INC.

DULWICH HILL ENMORE LEWISHAM
ST PETERS SYDENHAM TEMPE

MARRICKVILLE PETERSHAM STANMORE
& PARTS OF CAMPERDOWN & NEWTOWN



OUR NEXT MEETING

Sydney in the 1860s and 1870s

with Lesley Muir

Saturday 28 February 10.15 for 10.30 am

Herb Greedy Hall 79 Petersham Rd Marrickville

This presentation will take you on a photographic tour of Sydney when its early colonial past was still very much in evidence. It was a city in transition before the boom of the 1880s changed its appearance forever. On the slope facing Darling Harbour, the streets and alleyways were crowded with one and two-roomed weatherboard-and-iron hovels built in the early days of the colony, with open drains running between them. The city's shopping heart was near Central Railway. In Macquarie Street, a street of town residences and gentlemen's clubs, the main building of the old Rum Hospital (architect unknown) was still serving as the Sydney Infirmary, 60 years after Francis Greenway had predicted that it would "soon fall into ruin".



Weatherboard buildings Market Street corner of Clarence Street (State Library of NSW: Picman SPF/571)

But Sydney was changing. There were brand new buildings — Anglican Cathedral, Catholic Cathedral, Museum, Town Hall, and new offices and warehouses at the northern end of George and York Streets to house the commercial activity of the land, gold mining and wool booms. You will be surprised at the clarity of the photographs, which will take you back to the time when "Sandstone Sydney" was built (photographs from Picman Collection, State Library of NSW).

MHS member **Lesley Muir** has a PhD in Historical Geography; her thesis, *Shady Acres: Politicians, Developers and the Design of Sydney's Public Transport System 1873-1895* was about the growth of Sydney in the late Victorian era. With Peter Reynolds and Joy Hughes, she wrote the book, *John Horbury Hunt, Radical Architect, 1838-1904*, published by the Historic Houses Trust to accompany its exhibition. She is Vice-President of the RAHS and immediate past President of the Horbury Hunt Club, a group interested in the history of architecture, landscape and town planning. A retired senior librarian, Lesley now works as a freelance historian, and with her husband, Brian Madden, has written many local histories.

2009 is the International Year of Astronomy commemorating the 400th anniversary of the first recorded astronomical observations through a telescope by Galileo Galilei.

To mark the 80th anniversary of the provision of blood transfusion and collection services in Australia and also to raise awareness, 2009 is the Australian Year of the Blood Donor.

And 2009 is also the 25th anniversary of the formation of Marrickville Heritage Society.

OUR MARCH MEETING

Tour to Tempe House & Environs

Saturday 28 March 10.45 for 11 am

Alexander Brodie Spark's Tempe Estate and the former St Magdalene's Chapel have been restored as part of the Discovery Point development around Wolli Creek railway station. MHS President **Scott MacArthur**, site architect for the conservation works, will act as guide around the buildings and gardens. Meet in front of the chapel (off Brodie Spark Drive).

On-street parking is available, Wolli Creek railway station is at hand and the 425 bus runs from Dulwich Hill to Rockdale via Princes Highway; Tempe Station and the 422 bus terminus are within walking distance. Lunch or drinks recommended after at the nearby Rowers on Cooks River or the Concordia Club.

NATIONAL TRUST HERITAGE FESTIVAL 4–19 APRIL

In honour of 2009 being The International Year of Astronomy this year's Heritage Festival theme is ***Our Place in Space: Under the Southern Cross***. Marrickville Council and Marrickville Heritage Promotions Committee will be celebrating the annual festival with the Marrickville Medal and the unveiling of an historical plaque, yet to be determined. The Marrickville Medal presentation ceremony will be on Wednesday 15 April. Details on page 2.

Winged Victory memorial needs restoration: see inside

See back page for details of Braidwood weekend

Please note this is a combined February/March newsletter, so there will be no newsletter in March. Next one in April 2009.

WINGED VICTORY IN NEED OF RESTORATION

A preliminary assessment of the Winged Victory memorial outside Marrickville Town Hall has deemed it structurally unsound due to corrosion. It is expected the Winged Victory sculpture will shortly be taken down for a more stringent examination to determine whether and how it could be restored.

Gilbert Doble's statue was unveiled on Empire Day, 24 May 1919 in honour of the fallen in World War One. Most war memorials feature men, but Doble was very anti-war and disdained the use of fighting motifs in his work. He preferred the symbolic woman in his memorials such that the Winged Victory was described as conveying "to the mind that nation's pride in the victories of our heroes and our sorrow for their deaths" (a reporter, quoted in *Sacred Places: War Memorials in the Australian Landscape* by Ken Inglis, The Miegunyah Press, Melbourne 1998, p. 174). The statue stood until 1962 when it was removed for safety reasons, and lay untouched in two parts in a council storage depot for almost three decades.

When the Marrickville Heritage Society was formed in 1984, MHS adopted the Winged Victory as its logo and campaigned to have it restored and reinstated. The significance of the memorial is captured in Gregory Robertson's ardent article *Mourning Victory* in *Heritage 2* (1985): "The statue is an important part of Marrickville history. Not only is it an exemplary work of art . . . but it was produced by an accomplished Australian sculptor" — Gilbert Doble. Largely due to the fervour of those early MHS members and with some funding from the NSW Bicentennial Council, Marrickville Council commissioned sculptor Alex Kolozsy to painstakingly restore Doble's original work. Fittingly, at 11 am on 11 November 1988 the resurrected Winged Victory was unveiled by Sir Thomas Daly (see *The Winged Victory's Two Sculptors* by Anne Carolan, *Heritage 5*, 1989).



Clearly safety is of paramount importance, but hopefully council will find a way to have this iconic memorial returned to its column as soon as is practicable. Perhaps some funding can be tapped into or maybe some money gleaned from the \$20 million budget for the revamped, though needed swimming pool in Enmore. Let it not be forgotten that the Winged Victory is probably Marrickville's best known and most significant memorial and the town hall precinct would be much the poorer without it.

Richard Blair

Winged Victory shortly after erection of Marrickville Town Hall in 1922 (Marrickville Council History & Archive Centre)

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Call for Nominations: Marrickville Medal

The Marrickville Medal is the annual keystone event of the Marrickville Heritage Festival, which recognises and celebrates quality conservation and restoration work, and is one of the first of its kind in NSW. Marrickville Council and Marrickville Heritage Promotions Committee is once again calling for nominations for the Marrickville Medal as part of the Marrickville Heritage Festival 2009.

To be eligible for the Marrickville Medal, Council encourages anyone who has carried out quality architectural, conservation or restoration works in the past three years to put forward their property for the Marrickville Medal, regardless of the magnitude of their project. Whether your property is a heritage item, within a conservation or draft conservation area or is simply a period house, then you are encouraged to nominate. As well as the Medal itself, awards are presented across a broad range of categories for all types and size of works, including adaptive re-use, alterations and additions and restoration.

The presentation ceremony will be held on **Wednesday 15 April from 6 pm** at Petersham Town Hall 105 Crystal Street Petersham. Last year's Medal winner was 227 Australia Street Newtown, a small sandstone cottage in Newtown that had undergone substantial restoration works. All Saints Church Petersham was awarded the 2007 Medal. The Medal ceremony also

includes the presentation of a **People's Choice Award** and a **Special Achievement Award**, the latter given to an individual in the community who has made substantial contributions to the promotion of history and heritage in the Marrickville LGA. Last year's Special Achievement Award went to Richard Blair.

To register for the event or view previous years' entrants visit Council's website under planning and development/heritage; for further information phone Vanessa on 9335 2114.

Vanessa Holtham, Council's
Heritage and Urban Design Advisor

2008 POT LUCK XMAS DINNER

Bob's sangria (fortified by mulled wine) at our Pot Luck Dinner on 6 December packed a mean punch, but many went back for more before it was diluted with soda. Bob Hayes's Victorian villa and backyard in Tempe once more proved a splendid setting for our final event of 2008, having previously pot luck-dinnered there in 2000 and 2001. Congratulations to lucky-door prize winner, Keith Robinson. Thanks to those who helped in the kitchen, especially Karen; to Robert for donating his 'lucky-door' Xmas cake; and to Lorraine for the 'lucky-door' port and for her overall coordination of the evening. Special thanks to Bob for again being such a congenial and hospitable host.

SUMMER TRIVIA ANSWER

Prior to Jeff Fenech and Vic Darchinyan, there were a few boxers with local connections who achieved boxing fame, not that this was evident in the rather featherweight member response to the question. Perhaps this is indicative of this 1980 quote: 'For most Australians the decline of boxing is not a matter for regret. It has increasingly come to be seen as an outdated sport, unnecessarily violent and exploitative.' It is hard to disagree with this view expressed in the marvellously named book *Lords of the Ring* (Cassell, North Ryde 1980, p. 189) by Peter Corris (yes, he of 'Cliff Hardy' fame). Corris's survey of the history of boxing in Australia (especially in Sydney) is a nostalgic look at this colourful, dangerous and once extremely popular sport. Part of this popularity stemmed from the fact that any would-be boxer could 'make a few bob' by lasting a few rounds in the ring with an established boxer and admission to fights was cheap.

Boxing promoters and boxers alike made a living from early colonial times whilst there were always punters willing to back their man. If boxing is considered dangerous these days, back then it was lethal with no gloves or protectors being worn and fights often lasting dozens of rounds. Corris cites reports from the *Sydney Gazette* in the late 1820s near 'a public house upon the Parramatta Road', thought to be at the bottom of Taverners Hill Petersham. William Parkes (also known as Bill Sparkes) was part of a notable boxing family who lived at Parkes Camp (later Earlwood) on Cooks River and fought by the river. He also fought famous bouts in England.

Diane McCarthy has unearthed information about 'Hop' Harry Stone, born in 1889 in New York as Harry Siegestein. So called because of the way he delivered his punches, 'Hop' had fought over 250 bouts before arriving in Australia in 1913. He is reputed to have fought over 500 bouts before retiring. He lived in Stanmore Road Enmore, 15 Brereton Avenue Marrickville and 13 Petersham Road Marrickville. Diane recalls that in her youth 'Hop' owned a Mobil service station in Sydenham Road (near Livingstone Road) Marrickville and for many years afterwards a sign on the garage wall said "Prop. The Late 'Hop' Harry Stone". He died in Marrickville in 1950.

Ernie McQuillan's boxing gym was on the corner of King Street and Holt Street Newtown from the 1930s to the late 1950s when the building was destroyed by fire. He later moved his gym to Wilson Street Newtown. MHS member **Ron Smith** (who accompanied his father to many fights at Leichhardt Stadium in Balmain Road) recalls frequenting the Newtown gym as a young boy and being invited by Ernie to watch the boxers sparring. However Ernie's ulterior motive was to spot

potential boxers among the local boys. Best known from Ernie's gym was Vic Patrick, described as 'the best Australian boxer never to have won a world title'. He was an Australian lightweight and welterweight champion in the 1940s who lived in Newtown and Marrickville. He died in 2006.

In *Marrickville People & Places* by Meader, Cashman & Carolan (Hale & Iremonger, Sydney 1994, p. 181): 'notable Marrickville boxers include Billy Tingle, bantamweight champion of Australia, and Bob Williams, state lightweight champion'; however no information could be ascertained on them via Google.

Back to modern times, **Lorraine Beach** asks 'Does losing a title fight to Anthony Mundine count as achieving boxing fame?' Nader 'Lionheart' Hamdan did this, and was a Marrickville 'streetfighter' as a boy. He is currently ranked fourth in the Super Middleweight ratings. Anthony Mundine (son of former champion boxer, Tony Mundine) was born in Newtown and also lived in Marrickville. Among his accomplishments are two world boxing titles and he is still high in the ratings. Gong, there goes the bell!

Richard Blair

TRIVIA TRIVIA

According to WT Jeffcott *A Dictionary of Classical Names for English Readers* (MacMillan & Co, London, 1935, p. 104), *Trivia*, meaning 'three ways', was a "name for Diana because she was worshipped where three ways met on account of her threefold deity. Luna (the Moon) in heaven; Diana, the maiden huntress, on earth; Hecate or Proserpine in the Lower World. The word *trivial* is derived from it, in allusion to the unimportant conversation carried on at crossroads."

Brewer's Dictionary of Phrase & Fable (Cassell, London 1912, p. 1247) maintains *trivia* is not from the Latin, but "from the Greek *tribo* [to rub], meaning the worn or beaten path; what comes out of the road is common, so trivial means of little value." So what is *Trivium*? Brewer says it refers to "the three elementary subjects of literary education up to the twelfth century – Grammar, Rhetoric and Logic." That's hardly trivial.

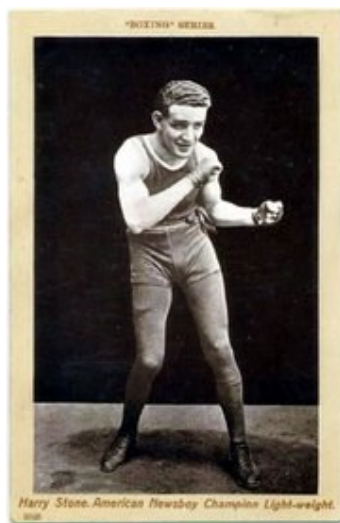
No hide, no Christmas box, or When in Allborg ...

I was in a town called Aalborg, Denmark back in late December 1991, receiving a driving tour from one of the locals on our way to a bar. All of a sudden he remembered that **Joern Utzon*** had a house there and we detoured past it. I expected something architecturally amazing but it was just a regular two storey brick house. The lights were on, and my friend got all excited, parked and knocked on the front door. He'd never met JU before either, but as being an Aussie had an exotic 'cachet' back then, he was determined to make the best of my town tour. He explained to JU that I was an Aussie, that he was giving me a tour of the town and just wanted to say hello; so we said our 'hellos', shook hands, gave a Merry Xmas wish and headed off to the bar.

I don't know if JU was visiting relatives or maintaining this as a second home, because I gathered much later that he primarily lived on the Spanish island of Majorca.

Michael Blair (nephew of editor)

* Utzon died in Copenhagen on 29 November 2008



'Hop' Harry Stone
(Source: Boxrec Boxing Records)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Saturday 28 February
Sydney in the 1860s and 1870s
 with Lesley Muir
 Details on front page

Saturday 14 March
Place Names Project Workshop (see below)

Saturday 28 March
Tour of Tempe House & Environs
 Details on front page

Friday 17- Sunday 19 April
Braidwood Weekend (see opposite)

Saturday 25 April
Barrie Dyster: *Grieving for Gallipoli*

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARDS

Congratulations to:

The **Watershed Sustainability & Resource Centre, Newtown** for receiving two awards, including overall winner of the Environmental Education Award in the Local Government & Shires Association Excellence in the Environment Awards in December 2008.

Marrickville Council, one of 20 councils in NSW (in the LG&SA award ceremony) acknowledged for "their commitment to environmental sustainability".

Chris Bartlett for receiving a Citizen of the Year Award for the 55+ age group in environmental work from Canterbury Council. Chris, 3-4 years ago formed the Mudcrabs — Cooks River Eco-Volunteers — a community-based group which removes rubbish each month from Cooks River and foreshores, including in the Marrickville LGA, and weeds, mulches and plants in designated areas of the river banks.

Peter Stevens, Vice-President, Wolli Creek Preservation Society, who won a non-residents award from Canterbury Council for outstanding environmental work with the WCPS (which belongs to MHS).

Voren O'Brien from WCPS who also won an award from Canterbury Council for her environmental work.



PRESIDENT Scott 9559 5736
HERITAGE WATCH Scott 9559 5736
TREASURER Stuart 9560 8070

Braidwood Weekend Friday 17 – Sunday 19 April

Thanks to members' interest in our proposed visit to heritage-listed Braidwood we are pleased to confirm this trip is going ahead. Our itinerary will include a guided history tour of Goulburn en route to Braidwood, a walking tour of Braidwood, Monga National Park's ancient rainforest, the John Verge-designed country home *Bedervale*, and other sights and sites. We will travel in two comfortable mini-coaches giving us great flexibility with transport and the option to drive the history tours for those who find the walking too much. Inevitably there may be an over-indulgence of the gourmet kind: all meals (two breakfasts, three lunches and two dinners) are included, but for guilt reduction there will be opportunity for browsing at leisure, strolling and even bushwalking.

More good news: our costing has come in under our budget estimate — \$350 per person based on two people sharing a room; single supplement \$75. As well as meals, cost includes transport, accommodation, tours and entry fees. Numbers are strictly limited, so those who have already expressed interest *must* confirm to Lorraine on 9550 6608 or by email to <lbeach@iprimus.com.au> as soon as possible. New enquiries will be waitlisted in order of receipt. Payment in full (cheque or money order to Marrickville Heritage Society to the PO box on front page) by 14 March. Departure details in April newsletter.

To ascertain information about and/or venue for the **Place Names Project Workshop** on **Saturday 14 March at 10.30 am** contact Lorraine on lbeach@iprimus.com.au or 9550 6608

Regrettably the Members' Dinner at Parliament House planned for 25 March has been postponed indefinitely because of our inability to make suitable arrangements with Parliament House.



Tudor Gothic Village complete with keep, tavern, apothecary, stables, pillory and even a wee graveyard. The 2008 students at TAFE's Sydney Institute Design Centre (in grounds of former Enmore High School) have done it again. This is just as fantastic as Little Venice recreated by the class of 2007. It is best viewed from the end of Metropolitan Road Enmore.
 (photos: Richard Blair)