

MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY INC.

DULWICH HILL ENMORE LEWISHAM
ST PETERS SYDENHAM TEMPE

MARRICKVILLE PETERSHAM STANMORE
& PARTS OF CAMPERDOWN & NEWTOWN

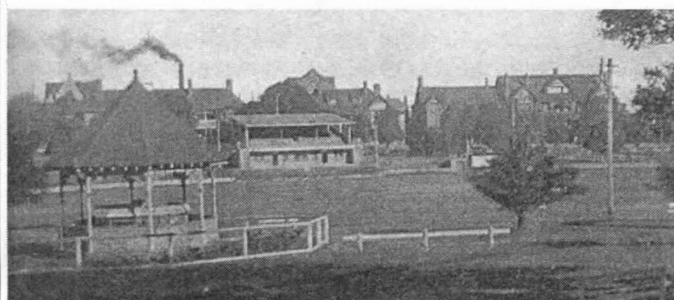


OUR NEXT MEETING

**Petersham North Walk with Geoff Ostling
Saturday 24 July 10 am**

Meet outside Petersham Town Hall at 9.45 for 10 am sharp start. Cost \$5 (payable on day but booking essential) includes morning tea. Finish about 1 pm. Numbers limited. Advise if you have to cancel. Bookings: Pamela 9569 0820.

This heritage walk conducted by past MHS president Geoff Ostling will include Petersham Town Hall, Petersham Railway Station, Petersham Park and Oval, Fort Street High School, Petersham Bowling Club, the Fanny Durack Pool, and selected buildings in Terminus, Brighton and Palace Streets. We will inspect the much publicised murals relating to the Sudan War and various 19th century identities including Ned Kelly, in a former shop in Terminus Street (courtesy Keith Sutton); and the 2002 Marrickville Medal award-winning Metropolitan Community Church on the corner of Crystal and Brighton Streets which was previously the headquarters of the Mastertouch Piano Roll Company. Morning tea will be served here.



Petersham Oval and band rotunda with Lewisham Hospital in background in 1926 (Borough of Petersham annual report 1926 Mitchell Library 352.091/P)

WINGED VICTORY UPDATE

The update is that Council wheels are turning so slowly that there is virtually no update! In April we reported that the non-destructive testing was carried out in March and that Council would "formulate a suitable strategy for addressing the statue's restoration and/or replacement."

The Society was advised in late June that "Given the significance of the Winged Victory it is important that the findings are reported back to Council for a decision. The officer overseeing the Winged Victory project is currently on leave, however he has planned to get a report to the Land Use, Assets and Corporate Committee meeting on 10 August."

OUR LAST MEETING: AGM WHO'S WHO ON THE COMMITTEE

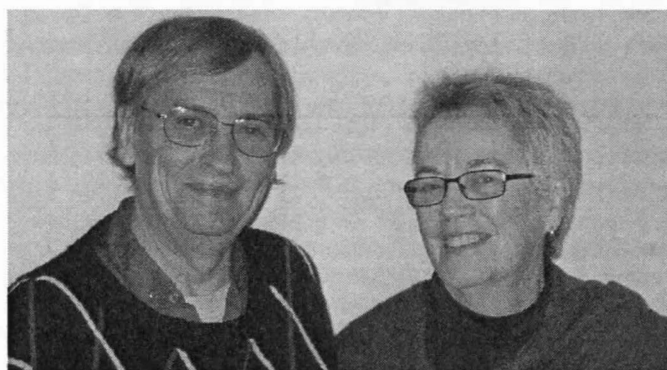
President Richard Blair welcomed members to the Society's 26th Annual General Meeting on Saturday 26 June at Herb Greedy Hall, Marrickville. After announcements, Richard read his president's report (see inside) and later the publications report (to appear in August newsletter). Treasurer Diane McCarthy presented her treasurer's report.

After questions to the reports, presentations were made to Graeme Napier for examining the books and to Pamela Stewart, who has stepped down after 13 years as membership secretary. Returning Officer Graeme Napier declared all positions vacant. Elected were: president, Sonia Laverty; vice presidents, Lorraine Beach and Silas Clifford-Smith; treasurer, Diane McCarthy; secretary, Vivien Wherry; assistant secretary, Sue Miller; committee members, Richard Blair, Iain Carolin, Robert Hutchinson, Ian Phillips, Pamela Stewart and Rosemary Wood. We welcome Iain, Pamela, Rosemary and Silas to the committee.

Those not standing again on the committee were Carole Adams, Di Beckett, Colin Hesse and Scott MacArthur. The committee endorsed Diane McCarthy continuing as Public Officer.

Lunch comprised of bread with zucchini, corn and bacon soup (made by Di Beckett), pumpkin soup (Lorraine Beach), and paté and mini fruit cakes (Robert Hutchinson). Thanks to all who helped.

Richard Blair



Richard Blair hands over the presidential reins to Sonia Laverty at AGM (photo: Lorraine Beach)

Fee renewal by Direct Deposit

Apologies for the typo in the last newsletter, rectified in a global email. Name of account: Marrickville Heritage Society Inc (Account 85663) with Sydney Credit Union (BSB 802-084). Make sure you add your name as reference for payment. Concession \$12, individual or joint concession \$20, household/organisation \$28. Enquiries ring Diane 9588 4930.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT (INCLUDING HERITAGE WATCH) FOR 26TH MHS AGM 26 JUNE 2010

A year and a day ago I was phoned by the then president, Scott MacArthur, advising that he would not be standing again as president, as previously indicated, as he had just accepted an offer to work interstate for at least two years in his profession as heritage architect. This resulted in my being nominated as president, a position I last held in 1999. The departure of Scott has been significantly felt in the important sphere of heritage watch as throughout the previous decade, Scott had been the heritage watch voice of the Society. With no obvious replacement this did not augur well especially with the significant changes to state heritage and planning legislation last year designed to remove considerable decision-making from councils and further encourage development, partly through the state government-appointed planning panels consisting of personnel with little or no connection with the local community. Furthermore we've been faced with Council's Draft Local Environment Plan which favours excessive height and density in buildings along shopping strips. Already we are seeing large building projects approved, for example along Enmore Road, which are transforming the streetscapes that give our suburbs so much character.

Also, the Society is sometimes approached by non members about planning issues beyond the parameters of the Society's mandate, but we have quite enough to handle with heritage-related issues. A by-product of Scott's stewardship has been the increased level of notifications by Council regarding development applications. We thank Marrickville Council for this. Notwithstanding all these factors, the committee has done its utmost to address DAs and I especially commend Lorraine Beach for her input, though we have called upon expertise in Society ranks at times. Good news stories include Colchester Hall, a derelict mansion in Marrickville, impressively refurbished; and the former Methodist, later Coptic Church, in Sydenham, whose fate remains uncertain, though Council has allowed more time to explore options for appropriate adaptive reuse. We've regularly canvassed Council about work on the dismantled Winged Victory and kept members informed in the newsletter, but progress has been inexplicably slow. Sadly, IKEA demolished the former administrative headquarters of Penfolds in Tempe thanks to a decision last year by the Planning Minister whilst the row of 12 Federation-era workers terraces at 163-185 Parramatta Road Camperdown was demolished just this week. Much else remains under threat and we must continue to be ever-vigilant.

An important Society initiative was a forum on the new heritage legislation held in Newtown in October. We thank the representatives from the three major political parties and a member of the National Trust Board who came to speak and debate the issues. This well-attended forum, which attracted valuable publicity, broke new ground for the society and is perhaps an area where societies like MHS could become more proactive, although, as with many like groups, it's hard enough attracting people to run the Society effectively, let alone do more. We were unsuccessful in getting either the then Planning Minister, now Premier, or the local State Member along. Perhaps heritage as an issue, is not a vote-catcher in the way, say, the environment is, judging by the level of interest shown by politicians in issues raised and forums organised by environmental groups.

We had a diverse range of talks and outings this year. We heard about rural fences from Dr John Pickard; David Levell discussed his book *Tour to Hell* focusing on notions of escape by early convicts; Bruce Preston spoke on the evolution of the book to the futuristic iPad; author Peter Golding spoke of former local MP and Labor Premier Joe Cahill, subject of Peter's recent biography; former committee stalwart, Angela Phippen related tales of the demolished houses of Parramatta River; and with one of the best-received speakers for years, Dr Grace Karskens presented an alternate view of the early years of the colony. Two coach excursions took us firstly to Wallsend, where local resident and long term member Geoff Hassall facilitated an enjoyable day; whilst Bonney Djuric unlocked Parramatta's hidden history, the highlights being a visit inside the former Parramatta Girls Training School and a walk around the old Female Factory precinct. We had two walking tours, one with Dr Ian Jack around St Andrew's College at the University of Sydney; whilst Laurel and Bob Horton led a walk along Marrickville Road. A small group went on a midweek tour to the Telstra Museum in Bankstown. Our annual pot luck dinner at the Dulwich Hill home of Silas and Stephanie Clifford-Smith was a convivial evening in a most congenial setting.

We were pleased to induct long term member Bob Thompson as a Life Member, mainly for the 25-year newsletter index he voluntarily compiled. Keith Sutton was awarded a Certificate of Achievement at the RAHS annual conference. And I thank vice president Robert Hutchinson, representing MHS, who often appears on the historic society circuit with his range of talks.

Storage for the Society's stock continues to be a vexing issue. In the absence of a cheaper option or of suitable space being provided by Council – a privilege that has been extended to some sister societies by their local council – we were obliged last year to seek costly storage with Kennards. However, early this year we obtained warehouse storage at a low rate for an indefinite period which is most appreciated. Maybe one day MHS will get its own space, but this seems unlikely in the foreseeable future.

We've managed to get the next journal back on track, but I will cover that and the Society's other publications in my Publications Report. From 2001 to 2003 we ran quite a successful website, but discontinued it due to high running costs. This committee investigated setting up a new website and Carole Adams designed and set up a blogsite, which is free of running costs but has limitations. Further work should see a site become fully operational. I thank Carole, who is not standing again, for her strenuous efforts. I also thank Di Beckett or Colin Hesse, also not standing, for their sage advice and active participation.

My committee has facilitated my role enormously by assisting at our Saturday meetings, our outings, the heritage forum, pot-luck dinner and in the day to day running of the Society. In particular I'd like to thank Vivien Wherry for keeping us all up to speed with the mail and for her skill and patience in liaising with Council over meeting venues. Diane McCarthy came back as treasurer after a long break. Members appreciate her friendly and diligent manner. Diane is a good communicator and remembers what many overlook. Ian Phillips for handling our audio system, not only at Herb Greedy Hall, but also on the road both at Parramatta and literally along Marrickville Road last month. Sonia Laverty who has represented MHS on the Heritage Promotions Committee and acted as a vital link. Robert Hutchinson and Sue Miller continue to be ready and willing helpers especially at our Saturday meetings. Lorraine Beach is a tower of strength in innumerable ways, an ever-ready sounding board and someone with that rare ability to look at both the big picture and the most minute detail.

My final thanks goes to a non-committee member, Pamela Stewart who for the past 13 years has served the society as membership secretary, a committee appointment. Prior to 1990 the secretary kept membership records. In 1990-91 the position of membership secretary was created and assumed by MHS founding member, the lovely Mary Tait, until her death in 1997. Pamela then took over. The position involves maintaining brief member records on cards with renewal details entered – very useful in cross-checking payments. Pamela expressed her wish to retire from the position. The committee decided to dispense with the position and computerise the details. Pamela will continue to send out postal newsletters.

I've enjoyed my third stint as president. Having served for two years last millennium, I didn't expect to be in the presidential chair again. It's indeed been an honour to serve as president of this vibrant society with such a healthy and active membership and I thank you for allowing me this opportunity. I know many wonderful people who are MHS members and it is largely this that makes being so involved such a rewarding experience. However, in view of my other commitments, I won't be standing as president this year, though will step back into the committee ranks as I'll still have a newsletter to edit. Thank you.

Richard Blair



Pamela Stewart is thanked at AGM (ph: Lorraine Beach)

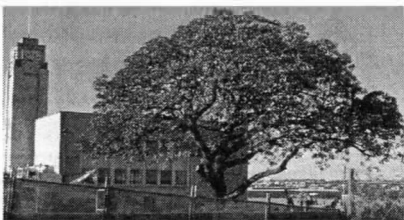
From the archives: Cooks River cleanup (from MHS newsletter June 1987)

"It was good to see so many of our members at the Cooks River Festival, a community-based initiative which aims to encourage community interest in the river and its surroundings.

In November 1986, the State Pollution Control Commission launched a 'Clean Up Cooks River Campaign'. Pollution problems in the river began in 1848 when an Act of Parliament was passed banning noxious trades such as wool washing, tanneries and boiling down works. These moved to Shea's Creek where a dam provided water and the effluent ran down Shea's Creek to Cooks River. By 1890, pollution problems had become so bad that residents and local councils petitioned the state authorities in regard to sewage in the river, the slaughterhouse, the boiling down works and the tannery. It was declared that the odours arising from Cooks River had achieved a world wide reputation!

In the 1980s we no longer run the risk of the local cattle infected by typhoid drinking the river water but Cooks River is still suffering severe pollution problems that have turned it from "a very fine stream of fresh water" as described by Captain Cook in 1770 to a degraded, urban waterway. An anti-pollution device employed in the 1870s by a wool washing station was to construct a filter of ti-tree and sand through which all waste water was strained. Factory pollution of the river has been controlled but problems are now being caused by people dumping rubbish and litter down drains, in the street and in the river. The anti-pollution device today is a community education program. Pamphlets have been produced for primary school children and are available at Marrickville Municipal Library. Contact Chrys Meader at 560 9333 ext. 282."

On 26 June, Laurel Horton saw the relocation of the Ikea site tree in Tempe (see March & April 2010 newsletters). Air bags were placed under the tree and pumped up enabling the tree to be dragged along for about 50 metres. Once in place the airbags were deflated and pulled out. The tree is now south of and next to the old Penfolds clock tower building. Long life!



LOCAL SOCCEROO STARS

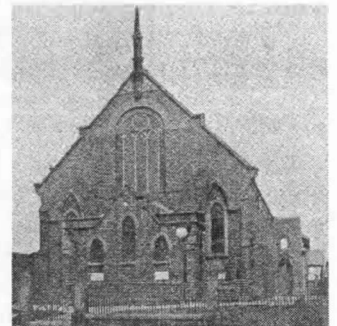
Former MHS member and co-author of *Marrickville Backyards*, George Morgan, reports from England:

"The UK press is reporting that not only has Australia fared less well than the home team in South Africa, but they've installed a 'British-born' sheila as Prime Minister. I note that both of Australia's World Cup goal scorers are Marrickville boys – Tim Cahill played for Marrickville in the CDSFA* and Brett Holman went to school at Christian Brothers, Lewisham. So the municipality plays a key role in sustaining the Australian tradition of glorious defeat. We can play the last post on the vuvuzela and start cheering for our second favourite teams."

* CDSFA is Canterbury District Soccer Football Association. According to *Wikipedia* Cahill as a youngster played football for Balmain Police Boys Club and the Marrickville Red Devils Soccer Football Club. He attended Bexley North Primary School, Tempe High School and Kingsgrove North High School.

WINTER TRIVIA ANSWER

This was the **Methodist Church Dulwich Hill** (1890, Beaumont and Lock) at 400 New Canterbury Road. According to the *Souvenir Jubilee of the Methodist Church Dulwich Hill* (1931) Methodism in Dulwich Hill began in the home of Mr and Mrs Blamire of Dunstaffene Street, Hurlstone Park in 1880 until the Primitive Methodist Church was erected in Constitution Road Dulwich Hill, almost opposite the Presbyterian Church (still standing). The foundation stones of the new church were laid on 15 March 1890 and the church opened in July 1890. In 1905 a Sunday School was built to the rear of the church. The first parsonage was in nearby Seaview Street before relocating to Lewisham, then in 1925 to a bungalow at 28 Macarthur Parade Dulwich Hill.



Council's Heritage and Urban Design Advisor Kate Napier advises "the church was listed by the National Trust in 1974. It was being used, amongst other things, as a child care facility. An application for commercial development may have been lodged at this time. Construction of a shop on the site seems to have commenced in 1977, and expanded in 1978 to include a carpark."

Peter Chinn was the only member to spontaneously identify the church, having attended there as a child. David Blair believes the church was deconsecrated in about 1974 and Graeme and Sue Napier's recollection that the church was demolished in the late 1970s was pretty much on the money. Thanks also to the reminiscences of Craig Bernie, Barbara Burnett and Denzil Kingston. Whilst all consulted agreed the church was replaced by a supermarket, it is unclear which one – Flemings perhaps, PDF Stores, or Permewans – but today it's an IGA. Particular thanks to Elva Blair, who scanned and sent the photo and provided a copy of the church history.

Richard Blair

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Saturday 24 July

Petersham North walk with Geoff Ostling

Details on front page

Saturday 28 August

Joinery with Alan Croker

Request for information about early picture shows in Marrickville and Newtown

I am compiling a detailed history of picture shows (in both halls and theatres) in Marrickville and Newtown districts. A great deal of information is already known about buildings erected since the 1920s, but earlier ones are fast fading from memory.

If any reader knows of photographs of the early buildings, or has information about builders, owners and managers, please contact Robert Parkinson on (02) 9519 9963 or email bobipark@optusnet.com.au. I can provide a list of the venues on request to interested parties. Included are sites that may not normally be thought of as picture shows, eg, Addison Road Military Camp, Manchester Unity Hall (Enmore), Masonic Hall (Dulwich Hall), Excelsior Hall (Marrickville) and Union Theatre (Sydney University).

Please note that theatres such as Kings, Hoyts and Addison Road (Marrickville), Odeon (Dulwich Hill* and Petersham), Hub, Clay's and Majestic (Newtown), and theatres of Enmore, Erskineville, St Peters and Sydenham are already well documented.

Robert Parkinson

* Many would remember this theatre as the Britannia. Seems name was changed to Odeon in the 1950s. - Ed.

Academy Twin closes

With the Academy Twin's last screening of Australian film *Animal Kingdom* on 27 June, Sydney farewellled another long-established cinema which had operated in Oxford Street Paddington since 1974. Originally named Wests' Olympia Theatre, it was built on the site of Marshall's Brewery in 1911. Seating around 2500 people on two levels its entrance was on the corner of Oxford and South Dowling Streets. When renovated in the 1920s by Union Theatres it was claimed to be Sydney's first suburban cinema to install "talkies". Renamed the Odeon around 1953 it closed in 1960 but reopened in 1969 as the Mandala Cinema, specialising in art house, cult and rock films.

It again closed in 1972, but was gutted and converted into the Academy Twin, Sydney's first twin cinema such that nothing remained of the old theatre interior. The new cinema reopened with Roman Polanski's *Macbeth* and *Fritz the Cat*. The rest of the original theatre was renovated into shops, offices, apartments and a cafe/restaurant and was bought by the local Greek Orthodox Church which ultimately decided to increase the rent beyond what was considered reasonable (data from cinema handout on history of theatre).

* * * * *

Talking of cinema, it was midway through a David Stratton review on *At the Movies* on the night of Wednesday 23 June that the breaking news foreshadowing Kevin Rudd's likely demise as PM cut in. And the name of that reviewed film? Fittingly, *Farewell*.

Wrap with Love Inc is a voluntary organisation which started in 1992. In 2009 around 25 000 people contributed their time in making 37 289 Wraps for many countries. Volunteers work at home or in groups, community centres, nursing homes, schools and retirement villages. They knit, crochet, weave, patchwork or machine knit the Wraps, each consisting of 28 squares. Wraps cannot be bought, sold or traded. For instructions to make squares or for more information ring Pamela on 9569 0820 or check the website www.artsandcraftsnsw.com.au/Wrap.htm.

NOW GONE!



(Photo: Danny Aarons
12/7/07 The Glebe)

Above is the 2007 photo showing part of the row of the 12 Federation-era workers terraces at 163-185 Parramatta Road Camperdown demolished in late June 2010. They had been long owned by the Department of Housing. As per our August 2007 newsletter, Council ignored the advice both of its heritage advisor (who said "the subject buildings retain social and historical significance, through their association with the re-alignment of Parramatta Road and demonstration of the historical evolution of development in the area") and of Scott MacArthur who maintained "Demolition of the subject buildings is considered unacceptable on heritage grounds."

Council's Heritage Advisor had also noted "these buildings were identified by Fox and Associates in 1986, and again in 1997 by Tropman & Tropman Architects (in the Heritage Study Review), as having heritage significance and the potential to be listed as an individual heritage item. They are also part of the Parramatta Road Retail Conservation Area under Marrickville LEP No. 111."

Alex Buzo's classic play *Macquarie* at Riverside Theatre, cnr Church & Market Streets Parramatta
15-31 July. Bookings 8839 3399 or
check website www.riversideparramatta.com.au.

Sydney's Italian Fruit Shops
Exhibition until 8 August (free)
Customs House, Level 1
31 Alfred Street Circular Quay
Monday-Friday 10 am-7 pm
Weekends 11 am-4 pm

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