

MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY INC.

DULWICH HILL ENMORE LEWISHAM
ST PETERS SYDENHAM TEMPE

MARRICKVILLE PETERSHAM STANMORE
& PARTS OF CAMPERDOWN & NEWTOWN



CALENDAR OF 2011 EVENTS

Saturday 26 February
Megan Martin on nurseryman Claude Crowe

Saturday 19 March*
To be advised

Saturday 16 April*
Robert Hutchinson's Reading photographs

* meetings a week earlier than usual

Reversal of hall/room hire fees decision by Council

The Marrickville Council meeting of 16 November voted to overturn an earlier decision to charge local not-for-profit groups fees for hall hire. A number of community groups which use Council facilities on a regular basis, made their concerns known to Council after receiving notice of the decision in August. Despite a proposal to allocate two hours free hall hire to approved groups, this would still have disadvantaged many local groups for whom regular attendance at these meetings contributes greatly to their general health and wellbeing. On behalf of the Society President Dr Sonia Laverty addressed the meeting and was pleased with the outcome. It was a 9-2 vote in favour of abandoning the introduction of fees. Well done Council for allowing common sense to prevail!

Sonia Laverty



*Jim Croke, Diane McCarthy, Deborah Beck and Sonia Laverty at pot luck dinner hosted by Jim and Deborah.
Report in next newsletter (photo: Lorraine Beach)*

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Rose Collins, Deborah Lang & David O'Donnell, all of Marrickville; David Brook, Newtown; Barbara Probert, Petersham; John Howard, Bob Waters, both of Stanmore; Joy Cahill, Fingal Bay; Michael Skennar, Roselands; Pat O'Brien, Urunga; Gwen Munro, Beaumaris, Victoria.

See page 2 for update on St Clements Church pews

The President, Sonia Laverty and the executive committee wish members and their families a Merry Christmas, a safe and Happy New Year.

DRAFT MLEP & DCP ON SHOW

Council's draft Marrickville Local Environment Plan (MLEP) and draft Development Control Plan (DCP) 2010 are now on public display. These draft plans are a comprehensive collection of Council's new planning controls and affect all properties in the Marrickville area and determine how land can be used. They include guidelines and controls for new development such as height, density, sustainable design, parking and heritage conservation.

The draft plans make provisions for new dwellings while preserving low density residential areas and the village character of our urban centres. There is a clear emphasis on protecting our heritage and conservation areas. The draft plans provide for small-scale 'live/work' enterprise to assist in the revitalisation of certain industrial and business zones and also opportunities for creative industries to flourish. Provisions have also been made to promote sustainable development and affordable housing initiatives.

The draft plans will be on display until 4 February and can be viewed at the Citizens Service Centre, Council libraries and on Council's website. Queries can be directed to the duty town planner on 9335 2222. Appointments (limit ten minutes) can be made with planning staff to better understand the plans.

Council will have public Open Days to enable residents to seek advice and ask questions about the draft plans. The first was on 6 December, but another two will be held on **Thursday 16 December at St Peters Town Hall** and **Monday 10 January at Herb Greedy Hall, Marrickville**, both between 10 am and 2 pm. We urge members to attend.

Local MHS members and all other residents are urged to view the plans, attend the open days and lodge their submission by 5 pm on Friday 4 February. Submissions can be made a) in writing to the General Manager Marrickville Council, PO Box 14 Petersham NSW 2049, b) by fax 9335 2029, or c) by email <marrickvillebydesign@marrickville.nsw.gov.au>.

Some might query the timing of this process, but in any case, MHS will be lodging a submission.

This is the final newsletter for those whose fees (due last June) have not been paid. However, your renewal is still welcome. Fees were given in last newsletter. For direct deposit: MHS account no. is 85663; Sydney Credit Union (BSB 802-084).

HENSON PARK HOTEL

For the second time in recent years the Henson Park Hotel faces the prospect of closure, as widely reported in the press. Such is the high regard for this pub that local politicians of all persuasions have come out fighting to have it remain open. *Marrickville People & Places* (1994, p. 156) tells of the significant links this site has with the early history of the area — it was built in the early 1860s by William Dean and called the Marrick Hotel.

But what of some of its later history? Geoff Ostling takes up the story:

Only in Marrickville!

I once heard a story about the Henson Park Hotel from Miss Elsie Henson, a member of St Clements Church, who lived at 138 Livingstone Road, Marrickville (*Vairoa*). She was the last to live in the old family home, and died in 1983 aged 96.

Her father, William Thomas Henson, after whom Henson Park and Henson Street (and the former Henson Ward) were named, was a prominent local citizen. He was an alderman (1897-1917) and four times mayor of Marrickville.

He was also a leader of the Temperance Movement which worked towards total prohibition of the sale of alcohol in Australia, much like the United States, Finland etc in the early years of the 20th century. The Temperance Movement eventually achieved 6 o'clock closing on Mondays to Saturdays and a total prohibition on the sale of alcohol on Sundays, but not the total prohibition (24/7 x 365) that they desired.

As a total abstainer from all alcohol, Henson was involved with the Rechabite Lodge which banned all drinking. I was told they complained about Mars Bars when this confectionery was introduced in Australia because they decided the chocolate probably contained the tiniest trace of rum.

In 1936 the former Town Hall Hotel was replaced by the current building and it was decided to change its name to the Henson Park Hotel. Henson family members were extremely upset, to say the least. They thought this was 'a stain on the family name'. They fought to remove their father and grandfather's name from the hotel because they despised alcohol so much.

However, after much effort and controversy, the eventual verdict was that Henson Park was a place, not a person. As the hotel was close to the back entrance to Henson Park, it was only appropriate that it take a local name. The name 'Town Hall Hotel' was now inappropriate, because in the early 1920s, the old town hall in Illawarra Road was closed and a new town hall was opened on the corner of Marrickville and Petersham Roads. But 30 years later, Miss Henson still refused to accept that the hotel was named after a place and not as an insult to her late father.

So, the official story is Henson Park Hotel was named after Henson Park which was named after William Thomas Henson of Livingstone Road, Marrickville, total abstainer and prominent member of the Australian Temperance Movement. As a piece of trivia, it is believed to be the *only* hotel in Australia (and possibly the world) to include in its name a leader of the Temperance Movement.

Geoff Ostling

Meeting about the pews of St Clements

On Sunday 5 December a number of parishioners and colleagues attended a meeting at the church to address objections to having the pews removed. It was chaired by Regional Archdeacon Ian Cox, minutes were taken by Rev Campbell King and there was a Chinese interpreter.

Reasons given by some church members to have the pews removed in the name of 'modernisation' remain unconvincing. Claims that the floorboards are not structurally sound seem biased and an independent opinion should be obtained. It was clearly demonstrated how the pews are adaptable allowing the congregation to interact; they're solid, provide a book rest and storage and are most suitable for child supervision. Views were presented to suggest that reconfiguring church layout in other churches has been counterproductive and acoustically unsatisfactory. Most long term parishioners and over two thirds of the Chinese congregation seem to want the pews retained. There certainly seemed to be rather strong anti-pew removal sentiment at the meeting.

Meanwhile the Religious Buildings Advisory Panel is seeking clarification from the Diocese on its reasons.

Richard Blair



MHS tee shirts modelled by Sue Miller, Lorraine Beach, Robert Hutchinson and Richard Blair, all spruiking for heritage at the Newtown Festival on 14 November (photo: Sonia Laverty)

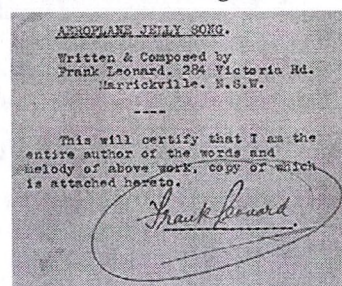
Aeroplane Jelly song composer

Member Ann Petersen recently emailed:

'I remember that the man who allegedly wrote the I like Aeroplane Jelly jingle once lived in my former house at 16 Durham Street Stanmore. My late husband and I were told this almost 30 years ago by a neighbour, Gordon somebody, a retired *Sydney Morning Herald* journalist, who was then in his eighties.'

This may well be true though has not been confirmed. The song was written in 1930. This document accompanies the song's sheet music held by the National Library of Australia and states Frank Leonard lived at 284 Victoria

Road Marrickville. The name was an alias of Albert Francis Lenertz, a composer and managing director of Traders Ltd, based in Alice Street Newtown which produced Aeroplane Jelly. Lenertz was the business partner of the jelly creator Bert Appleroth. Lenertz also composed *Newtown is an old town that I love*.



OUR LAST MEETING

Silas Clifford-Smith on Percy Lindsay

At the funeral of Percy Lindsay, cartoonist Unk White, shouted 'three cheers for old Perce' and the response was described by artist, George Finey as deafening. This is in keeping with the description of Percy by art historian and MHS vice president, **Silas Clifford-Smith** (in his illustrated talk on 27 November) as the most loved person (among the Sydney community of artists and the literati) of his generation. Percy (1870-1952) was the oldest of the illustrious Lindsay siblings (ahead of Lionel, Norman, Daryl and Ruby) and the first to take an interest in art.

Percy was largely self-taught and as part of his education was a regular visitor to the National Gallery in Melbourne, despite living in rural Creswick. He followed his better known brothers, Lionel and Norman, to Sydney and gained a reputation for being a bon vivant, who loved parties and socialising. Unlike his brothers, he was unambitious and never sought fame, nor did he ever make much money for his artwork, or if he did, he quickly parted with it.

Silas demonstrated that Percy was more serious than he was given credit for. Contrary to perceptions that he was lazy, he was actually prolific in both black and white art – he had hundreds of cartoons published, mainly in *The Bulletin*, and illustrated over 100 books, many for the NSW Bookstall Company – and his paintings. He is believed to have completed around 1000. His brother Daryl Lindsay (for 30 years curator of the National Gallery of Victoria) maintained 'Percy was the best painter and colourist of us all'. Sydney Harbour and the Hawkesbury River were favourite locations for his art, whilst he painted one of the first pictures of the Harbour Bridge in construction in 1927.

Silas won the 2008 Isabella Brierley History Prize for his essay on Percy. Australian Scholarly Publishing is about to publish Silas's biography, *Percy Lindsay: artist & bohemian*, the first to be written on Percy, in early 2011 (\$59.95). We congratulate Silas on this work and thank him for his truly illuminating talk.

Richard Blair

Note: An exhibition *Percy Lindsay's Sydney* will take place at the Norman Lindsay Gallery and Museum at Springwood in January-February 2011. Silas advises the exhibition will include several illustrations and paintings included in his talk.

Summer Trivia Question

I lived in this Petersham flat (photo below) and both my spouse and I were well known in the Arts. Who are/were we and where is this flat? Richard 9557 3823 or email: <heritagesociety@optusnet.com.au>.



Vale Roma Bates

Roma Bates (nee Bryant), born in Melbourne in 1909, was 100 years old when she died on 30 August. She had lived in Dulwich Hill since 1965 and had been a MHS member since 1996, sometimes attending meetings with her daughter Hilary, and Brian Morrissey, who are still members (Hilary was also a newsletter runner until quite recently).

Roma lived in New Guinea for almost 40 years after her father went there to work in the 1920s. She worked in many jobs including with Burns Philp. Her honeymoon with husband Charlie was to China and Japan, which was a prelude to a lifetime of extensive travel. Charlie was a Patrol Officer such that Roma learnt Morse



Code to communicate with him when on patrol. They survived the Rabaul volcanic eruptions of 1937 and afterwards the frangipanis came into bloom. She suggested they have a Frangipani Ball, which became an institution. Around 1950, north of Madang she was aboard a small aircraft which had a forced landing on a beach. As well as raising three children, Roma became very involved in a wide range of organisations in New Guinea. In 1961 she was appointed a nominated member of the PNG Legislative Council.

After Charlie died prematurely in 1954, Roma moved to her Dulwich Hill home in the Abergeldie area where she remained. She became an inveterate traveller to every continent including both the Arctic and Antarctic, which she visited three times. She enjoyed writing and became a competent artist. Roma is survived by her two daughters, Pat and Hilary (her son David died last year). Our condolences to her family (Note: this is condensed from the obituary provided by Pat and Ross Johnson; thanks also to Hilary for the 1998 photo taken on a Murray River cruise).

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The Society also notes the passing of MHS member, **Constance Torbett**, of Cremorne, who died on 26 July aged 95. Little is known of Constance except she joined MHS in 1995 as a result of her longterm friendship with the late John Zinsmeister.

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The Society mourns the death of **Sister Alison Bush** on 4 October aged 68. Alison, and her twin sister Jennifer, trained at Marrickville Hospital from 1960, graduating in 1964. Marrickville Hospital was one of the first hospitals to train Aboriginal women to become registered nurses. Alison became a midwife at Canterbury Hospital and worked at RPA from 1969, delivering over 1000 babies. She had a distinguished career, culminating in both an Order of Australia and the Centenary of Federation Medal. She was farewelled at St Brigids Catholic Church, Marrickville.

