

MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY INC.

DULWICH HILL ENMORE LEWISHAM
ST PETERS SYDENHAM TEMPE

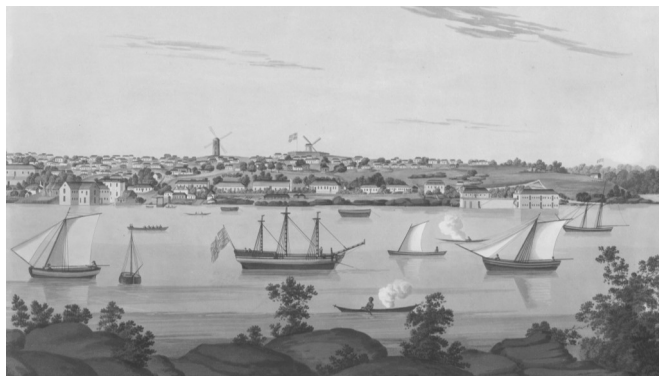
MARRICKVILLE PETERSHAM STANMORE
& PARTS OF CAMPERDOWN & NEWTOWN



OUR NEXT MEETING

Ian Hoskins – *Sydney Harbour: a history*
Saturday 27 August 10.15 for 10.30 am
Herb Greedy Hall 79 Petersham Rd Marrickville

Sydney Harbour was the source of spiritual and physical sustenance to the clans who lived around the waterway for thousands of years before the arrival of Europeans. The Gadigal and others were displaced by another 'saltwater' people – the British – who brought to bear their own priorities for the place. Over the next two centuries the Harbour became an open air penal colony, a commercial port, a place of filth and of acclaimed beauty, a tourist icon and the country's most desirable residential location. **Dr Ian Hoskins** charts the changes to one of the best known waterways in the world through the photographs and artworks that appear in his book *Sydney Harbour: a history* (UNSW Press), which will be on sale at the talk.



Sydney from the east side of Sydney Cove
(Painting by John Eyre)

Ian has taught at various Sydney universities, has worked as a Powerhouse Museum curator and has been the North Sydney Council Historian since 2003, during which time he has mounted numerous exhibitions on local history in the North Sydney Heritage Centre. His book *Was thinking of home today: North Sydney and the Great War* was shortlisted for the NSW Premier's History Prize for local and regional history in 2009. *Sydney Harbour: a history* won the Queensland Premier's Literary Prize for History in 2010. Ian is currently writing a history of the NSW coast.

Many thanks to all members who have given a donation, some very generous, to the Society, along with their membership fee. Very much appreciated!

Diane McCarthy, Treasurer

2011 History Week 3-11 September
Theme: EAT History

HERITAGE WATCH

Henson Park Hotel appeal decision

Although two DAs for a hotel at 252-254 Illawarra Road (in Marrickville shopping centre) had been refused, the long running fight to Henson Park Hotel at 91 Illawarra Road now seems lost, with recent advice from Council that the Land and Environment Court has upheld an appeal against Council rejection of the latest DA and granted development consent for the proposed hotel subject to conditions.

In particular, the Court ruled that: '1) the design of the [proposed] hotel has evolved to be more upmarket with a food offering and modern design; and 2) the Applicant presented more cogent evidence than it had in the past about social impact which satisfied the Court that, whilst social disadvantage existed, it was not so problematic as to warrant refusal.'

Henson Park Hotel is expected to remain open at 91 Illawarra Road for the rest of the year, but with this ruling, its days there seem numbered. Since the building is heritage-listed under the LEP, any DA is bound to present challenges regarding residential development. The MHS February 2007 newsletter cited a letter in the *Daily Telegraph* which described this hotel as one of Sydney's 'last surviving pubs with original art deco architecture and interior'. 'Nuff said!

Winged Victory statue

Tenders for the replica of the Winged Victory statue were reviewed at the council meeting of 19 July. Council resolved to reject 'all tenders on the grounds that the tenderers are not willing to accept the terms of agreement contained within the tender'. Council will now consider alternate options and another report is anticipated later in the year.

Station masters cottage Sydenham

This went before the Joint Review Planning Panel (JRPP) on 15 June with four local residents and a MHS representative speaking against the proposal. The matter was deferred and the applicant (Railcorp) was asked to submit an assessment of heritage significance of the property by a consultant acceptable to the council. To date no assessment appears to have been done.

TJ Andrews site, Newtown

This went before the JRPP on 14 July and MHS spoke supporting the Council Heritage Officer's view that the Crescent Lane villa (aka *Duncraggan* or the J Milne house: see April and June 2011 newsletters) should be retained. The matter was deferred with a Panel request to see if Railcorp (which is not the developer) would 'issue concurrence for part of this building to be retained as part of the development'.

Richard Blair

2011 MHS PUBLICATIONS REPORT

As **Sonia Laverty** indicated in her President's report, *Heritage* 13 was launched in October 2010. Much credit for this should go to **Yvonne Preston** who joined the editorial team early last year and to **Madeleine Preston** who did a fine job with the layout; **Shirley Hilyard** again commendably coordinated the advertising and I handled the overall coordination. As with all, bar one, of our journals since the mid 1990s, **Ed Jones** and his **Gopher Graphics** team made the journal look splendid. Financially we were assisted by a RAHS grant, several advertisements (some from long term advertisers) and sponsorship from 40 MHS members, all acknowledged in the publication. Above all we thank the authors who have further illuminated our history, in particular **John Vicars'** lead article on his family's woollen mill in Marrickville and **Harry Stone's** oral history of life in Sydenham (interviewer: **Ian Phillips**). Work on the next journal will start once the essay publication is out.

Work continues on the essay publication. **Lorraine Beach** undertook to do the layout which is saving the Society quite a bit of money. With her attention to detail and commitment to excellence I am satisfied we're in good hands. Some further fine tuning is needed whilst we are striving to get the images to an optimal standard. As I trust you would appreciate, the spare time available to Lorraine, **Keith Sutton** and myself — all volunteers — is limited due to other commitments but we're determined to produce a quality work and hope to have it published and launched before the year's end.

The newsletter continues to appear on schedule each month. I thank all scribes for 'Our Last Meeting', general articles or items of interest, trivia answers and those who make the effort to assist by way of email, phone or in person. Were I to list all of these folk, I'd be reading out a large part of the membership list, though of course, many non members also make contact for a variety of reasons. It is touching however to occasionally hear from our long term honorary member **Maureen Diehl** who lives in Florida, USA; some of you will recall her former residency in the Azores where she curated a war cemetery where a Marrickville airman lies. Two other members, currently living in China and Cambodia respectively, also keep in regular touch.

The trivia questions continue to evoke a positive response, but twice last year it so happened that the people concerned in the answer — **Johnny Cave** and **Ruth Park** — died between when the question was posed and when the answer appeared. Hence my resolve for no further trivia questions about the living! Talking about the recently deceased, the newsletter included obituaries for four long term esteemed members **Roma Bates**, **Constance Torbett**, **Kath Wenham** and **Hilda York**. We salute these robust, long lived, who all contributed much in their time. Traditionally it is considered impolite to indicate a woman's age but I'm sure they wouldn't mind my pointing out that Kath (mother of actor David Wenham) was in her late 80s, Constance and Hilda in their mid 90s and Roma Bates was over 100. In the case of Hilda and Roma, their children, **Bob York** and **Hilary Morrissey** continue on as members.

I'd like to thank **Sonia Laverty** and the committee for their broad support. I single some out in particular: **Diane McCarthy** for — besides being treasurer — her largely unseen work of organising envelopes, address labels, renewal slips and untold peripheral support; **Pamela Stewart** for posting the newsletter to members outside the area; **Ian Phillips** for his ever-reliable facilitation of newsletter deliveries and technical advice; and **Lorraine Beach** for her abundant day-to-day assistance. Beyond the committee I have also received diverse but invaluable input from **Rod Cox**, **Wendy Dyson**, **Hillary Goldsmith**, **Megan Hicks**, **Laurel Horton**, **Bob Irving**, **Kate Napier**, **Geoff Ostling**, **Bob Parkinson** and **Jacqueline Yetzotis**. **Shirley Hilyard** continues to be a tower of strength with her monthly stint of proofreading and quality control whilst the **World of Print** in Broadway still print the newsletter at a reasonable cost. I truly value all the drivers who take Ian to the door of runners each month — **Tony & Anna Breinl**, **Diane McCarthy**, **Graeme Napier**, **Pamela Stewart**, **Keith Sutton** and **Ken Turner**.

Last, but not least, the runners. This is not just my thanks, but thanks from us all for getting the newsletter to your door if you live locally — **Lu Bell**, **Richard Blair**, **Maree Blanchard**, **John Blattman**, **Tricia Blombery & Stuart Grigg**, **Nigel Butterley**, **June Cameron & Ken Turner**, **Iain Carolin**, **Peter Cousens**, **Lucille Dunstan**, **Fred Ellis**, **Rosemary Fallon**, **Ann Fenton**, **Audrey Furney**, **Barbara Gibbons**, **Jean Hartman**, **Colin Hesse**, **Shirley Hilyard**, **Hilary Morrissey**, **Allen Outlaw**, **Ian Phillips**, **Jan Pickering**, **Peter Robertson**, **Pamela Stewart**, **Ken Swinbourne**, **Vivien Wherry** and **Richard White**; with occasional backup from **Laurel Horton**, **Pat Jessop**, **Chris King**, **Graeme Napier**, **Corinne O'Loughlin**, **Ann Petersen** and **Keith Sutton**. Also, thanks to **Rose Collins** and other staff at **Marrickville Library** for dispersing the newsletter within Council. Finally, I acknowledge retired runners **Peter Cousens** and **Hilary Morrissey** who have both left the area, and veteran runner **Fred Ellis** who has retired from 'running' after over 20 years of pounding the beat. A grand effort, Fred!

Richard Blair

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Council ward names to be Aboriginal

As reported in the press, following consultation between Marrickville Council and the Marrickville Aboriginal Consultative Committee, the names of the four wards of Marrickville are to be changed to Aboriginal animal names. Central Ward will be Wirragga (goanna); North Ward: Wali (possum); South Ward: Magura (fish); and West Ward: Burruga (long-nosed bandicoot). These names were chosen as they reflect local fauna associated with the area.

Temporary closure of State Reference Library

The State Reference Library in the State Library of New South Wales will be closed for renovations from **Monday 1 August to Sunday 18 September**. All client services offered by the State Reference Library, including the Family History Service and the Legal Information Access Centre, will be closed and access to the book, journal and microfilm collections will not be available. Phone enquiries can still be made on 9273 1414 and the Mitchell Library will remain open.

OUR LAST MEETING

Coach tour of The Hills District

The cold damp weather on Saturday 23 July didn't stop us enjoying the trip to some of the historic places in The Hills District. First stop was The Hills District Historical Society Museum in the Balcombe Heights Estate, Baulkham Hills where we were treated to a delicious morning tea and given a talk by our guide, Pam Wilson (Secretary of that Society) on the William Thompson Masonic Schools, which opened in 1922 to care for and educate children who had been orphaned or left in poor circumstances after World War I. The buildings on the estate are now used by local community groups and are good examples of how heritage buildings can be given a new lease of life. We were free to admire the display of schoolwork and objects associated with the school, which closed in 1977, along with a marvellous display of other artefacts in this well-organised museum, which opened in late 2010.

The next stop was Hills Family Funerals home, formerly *The Hermitage* and the shire's oldest known building. In 1802 Verincourt De Clambe built a slab cottage on the site, and experimented with growing cotton, coffee, tobacco, grapes and olives. After his death in 1804, the estate had several owners, before being sold to the Castle Ridge Retirement Complex in 2001. The original house was restored and sold to Hills Family Funerals in 2007. A 200-year-old Chinese Juniper tree still stands near the front gate.

We had lunch at the Castle Hill Heritage Park, the site of the Government Farm, a public agricultural settlement worked by convict labour, established in 1801 by Governor King. The farm was closed in 1811 because of poor harvests; the barracks built for the convicts were converted first into a lunatic asylum and then into the church of St Simons. When the church was demolished in 1866, the land was developed as an orchard, and in 2004 became the Castle Hill Heritage Park. Pam related events when convicts rebelled and Major Johnston marched out with his men in what culminated as the Battle of Vinegar Hill in 1804. She showed us some of the remains of early buildings, a well, roads, tracks, fencing and bridges.

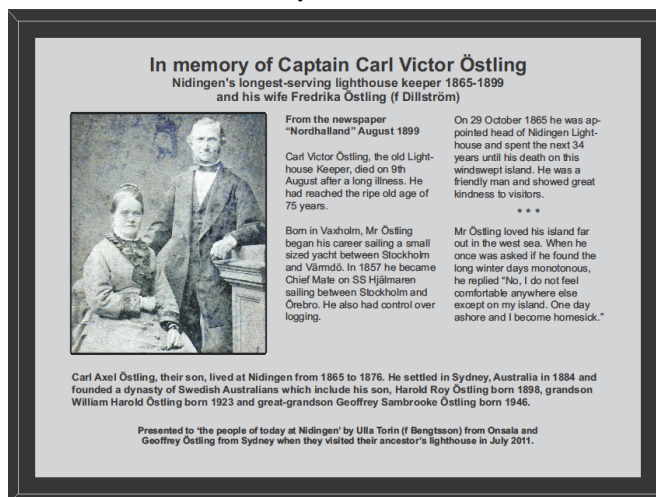
Our final stop was *Castle Hill House*, built in 1844 as the *New Inn*. Two bunya pines (brought to the area as seeds from the Brisbane area by Joseph Banks and given to local nurseryman George Suttor) at the front would have shown travellers their destination. An early owner, Dr Richard Greenup, who called the house *Darcey Hey*, was killed by one of his patients. Among the early architects were James Houson and Edmund Blacket. From 1942 to 1988 the house was run by the Child Welfare Department as a boys home, and known as *Castle Hill House*. The house became derelict, and after a fire in 1989, was bought by the Redeemer Baptist Church, who have faithfully restored the old house. Geoff Seamens, who worked on the restoration, described the problems and the work carried out, and showed us over the house. A photographic display showed the work in progress.

Tired, but having learnt lots of new historical facts, we arrived back at Petersham late in the afternoon. Many thanks to **Pam Wilson** and her Society colleagues and to **Diane McCarthy** for organising this memorable outing.

Joan Francis

Geoff's Family History Week gesture

Former MHS President Geoff Ostling recently visited Nidingen Island off the Swedish coast. The lighthouse there is Sweden's oldest (out of the 90 currently in operation) and Geoff's great-great grandfather, Captain Carl Victor Ostling was lighthouse keeper there for a record 34 years from 1865 until his death in 1899. It was decided to commemorate the visit with a plaque to be placed in the house where he, his wife Fredrika and their family lived.



For many years we were the only people in Australia with the Ostling family name and always wondered where we came from. In 1975, my late father, Rev Bill Ostling, and I spent several fruitless hours at the Office of Births, Deaths and Marriages in Stockholm. More than 30 years later, an eagle-eyed friend saw a request on an Internet genealogical chatline for information about the name Ostling in Australia. We began to talk to our third cousin, Ulla Torin, and found that we had more than 30 cousins in Sweden. In 1975 we had looked in the wrong place. Ulla has traced the family history back to the 16th century. The missing link was the Australian connection.

The lighthouse on Nidingen Island is now electrified and the island is a bird sanctuary, open to the general public for only a few weeks each summer. Joe and I were able to make the voyage to the island and stay in the tiny house where Carl Victor Ostling and his family lived and where the plaque will be attached to the wall. The following day there was a family picnic with cousins coming from Denmark and other parts of Sweden. The story of the old lighthouse keeper has now been commemorated and many friends have been made.

Geoff Ostling

A purple (denoting wealth) wedding dress worn by Matilda Clarke at her 7 September 1858 marriage to John Denison at St Peters Church Cooks River was on display at The Hills museum. The dress was donated to The Hills DHS in 1976 by Mrs L Cook.

Two venues we didn't visit on the Society's trip to The Hills on 23 July were Hillsong and the Powerhouse Museum Discovery Centre Collection Stores. Indeed, MHS is often asked about visiting this (latter) venue, but it's only open between 10 am and 4 pm Tuesday-Friday and on the second Saturday of each month, affording little flexibility for working people!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Saturday 27 August

Ian Hoskins — *Sydney Harbour: a history*

Details on front page

Saturday 24 September

Camden and beyond by coach

Saturday 22 October

**Lebanese settlement into Australia:
talk by Freda Backes**

Monday 15 August 6-8 pm

Marrickville Library

Familysearch.org

Vicky Eldridge, professional genealogist from the Society of Australian Genealogists, will demonstrate the new and improved Familysearch website.

Quartlys quartered

Quartlys is probably the longest surviving business in Newtown, but it has ceased to be a presence on King Street for the first time since 1896-97. Founded in 1880 in Goulburn by Edwin Quartly, Quartly's Ironmongery moved to 286 King Street Newtown in 1896-97 and relocated to 246 King Street in 1917. In the 1930s, Quartlys opened stores in Hurstville, Crows Nest, Petersham and Kingsford.

Sources Above: ad from 'Newtown Jubilee Souvenir 1922' p. 78; below: store in the 1980s or early 1990s ('The Newtown Project')



About 15-25 years ago Quartlys Newtown merged with Mitre 10 (founded in Balwyn, Victoria in 1959). The store has downsized considerably and relocated to the rear annexe (for a long time part of the complex) in Whateley Lane with an added floor on top. It is owned by fourth generation Quartly family member, Gail Percy and trades under Quartlys Mitre 10. A discount chemist is now on the King Street site.

Richard Blair



Lewisham's sewerage ventilation stack

Sydney Water has recently finished its maintenance of the heritage-listed sewerage ventilation stack, aka Lewisham's Stink Pipe! It is one of four such vents in the Marrickville LGA: this one is in The Boulevard near the corner of Hunter Street, Lewisham.

The shaft, built in 1910, sits in the garden of the house on that corner and is of red brick to a height of 28 metres. The work undertaken, involving an enormous crane and cherry picker, was repointing the mortar in the brickwork and repairing the sandstone moulding that circles the shaft, at a quarter of its height. Further up there are patterns of cream bricks all to be brush washed.

Seen from a neighbour's garden, where the resident describes the ventshaft as 'a surprisingly beautiful thing', it is now ready to serve the environment for many years to come.

Shirley Hilyard



(Judith Matheson's photo from *Lewisham is cool*)

Lewisham is cool (48 pages, 2010) is a self-published book of photographs of the Lewisham area by **Judith Matheson** (MHS President 1991-92). Judith writes in her preface how she has discovered [Lewisham's] 'history and its character, its pleasures and faults, and some of its intriguing details.' Many of the photographs are stunning and include the landmark 'stinkpipe' as above. Dedicated to her cat Choo-Choo — 'one of the original ginger tabbies of Lewisham' — the book is print-on-demand and obtainable via the mammoth URL running parallel to the stinkpipe.

Nonagenarian MHS member **Monica Sheehan** has written fondly recalling the support MHS members gave the 'Battlers for Kelly's Bush' in 1996 at the 25th anniversary celebrations. On 6 June 2011 Governor-General Quentin Bryce organised a gala dinner for 100 people to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Green Bans, the first of which saved Kelly's Bush.

Happy 20th anniversary to the **Martin Luther King mural** on King Street Newtown, painted by Juilee Pryor and Andrew Aiken (see July 2001 newsletter).

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