

MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY INC.

DULWICH HILL ENMORE LEWISHAM
ST PETERS SYDENHAM TEMPE

MARRICKVILLE PETERSHAM STANMORE
& PARTS OF CAMPERDOWN & NEWTOWN



OUR MARCH MEETING

Saturday 24 March 10.30 am

Mechanical Music Museum at Fairground Follies
22 Burrows Road St Peters (midway between Campbell Street & Canal Road). **Booking and prepayment essential**

The two hour tour showcases some of the rarest and most fascinating mechanical musical instruments in the world, including self-playing violins, orchestrion, street organs, Wurlitzer photoplayer, polyphones, clavist, Steinway Duo Art piano, zither, robot orchestra, nickelodeons, a Scopitone (1960 film juke-box) and the Taj Mahal, 'regarded as the grandest piece of mechanical music in the world'; plus a ride on a 100-year-old carousel.



Lots of parking; a 10-15 minute walk from Princes H'wy & Mascot Station; 20 mins from St Peters Station via Barwon Park Rd or Sydney Park. A lift can be arranged.

Bookings <heritagesociety@optusnet.com.au> or ring Richard 9557 3823 (who can advise on access). Cost (including morning tea): \$22, children under 12: \$8. **Prepayment to MHS essential.**

Royal Australian Historical Society Fellowship awarded to Dr Lesley Muir

From RAHS enewsletter (10 February 2012) –

'Members of the RAHS, who, in the judgment of the Council, have rendered service in advancing the knowledge of Australian history and in furtherance of the objects of the Society, shall be eligible for appointment as Fellows. The Council is pleased to award a Fellowship to **Dr Lesley Muir** OAM:

"Dr Lesley Muir has advanced knowledge of Australian history through her publications on New South Wales colonial politics, NSW architectural history and Sydney local history. Also important are her involvement in local and specialist historical societies and her organisation of historical tours.

Her furtherance of the RAHS's objects includes her service as a Councillor for almost 10 years. She has been a Vice-President since 2008. Perhaps her most significant contribution is as Chair of the Affiliated Societies Committee since 2002. She spends much time in supporting affiliated societies. The RAHS's recent successful conference and the doubling of its state government funding for the Cultural Grants over the next three years owe much to her efforts."

Well done Lesley, a long time MHS member, who has conducted some walks and talks for the Society.

Earth Hour Saturday 31 March 8.30 pm

Marrickville: a past worth preserving

Peter Cousens (MHS President 2000-02, editor of journal *Heritage* 12 and winner of the Society's 2007-08 essay competition) recently emailed Richard Blair:

'*Marrickville: A past worth preserving* is a brilliant piece of work, in the editing, laying out, picture insertions and as valuable reference material for the future. Having worked on a journal publication I know the hard work involved, so my heartiest congratulations to you, Lorraine [Beach] and Keith [Sutton] for a beautiful piece of work. I am still working my way through the fascinating articles which make for interesting reading about a lovingly remembered LGA. I am proud for having been a contributor to the essays. Keith's singular idea of a local history essay writing competition has been a fantastic idea that survives in written form to benefit the community as a whole.'

To obtain a copy of *Marrickville: a past worth preserving* send a cheque or money order to Marrickville Heritage Society (address below) and advise your name and address. Book is \$35 plus post, packaging and handling charge for Sydney is \$10, NSW country & ACT \$11; Vic. & Qld \$13; SA \$13.50; Tas. \$14.50; WA \$15. Free home delivery can be arranged for local residents. If you wish to pay by direct debit ring Diane on 9588 4930.

Submissions have closed for the state government **review of the NSW planning system**. The purpose of this review is to establish new legislation to replace the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* ('the Planning Act'). An extensive consultation process was conducted and numerous submissions were made. For further information see <planningreview.nsw.gov.au>.

Marrickville Council has several events planned for the National Trust Heritage Festival from 16 April. These will be advertised in our April newsletter.

How to Join the Society

Send a cheque or money order made out to Marrickville Heritage Society (address below) with your name/s, address, phone/s and email. Payment can also be made by direct debit (Account name: Sydney Credit Union BSB 802 084; Account No. 85663; Reference [insert your name]). Ring Diane 9588 4930 for enquiries or a brochure. Concession \$12, individual or joint concession \$20, household or organisation \$28. Join now and your next renewal won't be until June 2013.

Our Last Meeting Show & Tell

What have a George the Third coin, a crumbly old brick, a slide rule, a set of serviette rings and a chunk of the original Petersham railway station steps in common? Absolutely nothing, except they were among the diverse wares on display at the Society's Show & Tell on Saturday 25 February at Herb Greedy Hall. While such artefacts may not be of great financial value, they often reflect the owner's high esteem for the objects. **Nancy MacAlpine's** copper coin – regarded as Australia's first official coin – was in currency for many years. **Bob Horton's** brick once belonged to Henry Knight, who built St Peters Church Cooks River in the 1830s. **Ian Phillips** owned his slide rule for ages before he learnt how it actually worked. **Ros Torrent's** serviette rings reminded her of a pre-paper serviette era when elegance accompanied even a simple family meal. **Shirley Hilyard** reminded members of how State Rail removed the cast iron railway steps at Petersham station in 1994 (see *Heritage* 8); she showed other reminders of the steps with her rubbing of the cast iron maker's name, a colourised drawing of the original steps and her remnant chunk of the structure.

We admired **Shirley Maguire's** decorative illuminated Call to Arms for her father, Trooper A (Allen) Ryan, presented by Marrickville Council in 1941; and **Vilma Bell's** working drawings of her 1880 Newtown house, given to her on purchase in 1972 by the family of the previous (and original) owner, GE Richardson. Amazingly, just two owners in 132 years. Also, **Graham Hunt's** photo of *Ourimbah*, an extant ancestral house in Garners Avenue. We even had a Show and Ask with **Deborah Lang's** 1947 medal bought by her late father and inscribed 'Five Dock RSV'. And more.

In a hotly-contested field, the judges declared **Vilma Bell** the winner, with runners up **Laurel Horton** (artefacts relating to Stanley Howard), **Graham Hunt**, **Shirley Hilyard** and **Ros Torrent**. Thanks to our breezy MC, **Diane McCarthy**; judges **Robert Hutchinson** and **Nancy MacAlpine**; **Lynne Greenwood** (who had kindly donated two of our prizes, pieces of Diana pottery); and **all 13 contributors**. Now, I wonder what gems we'll see next time . . . and where in the heck did I stash my old box of 1950s bus tickets?

Richard Blair



Vilma Bell's 1880 drawings for her Newtown house 'Falmouth' (photo: Lorraine Beach)



Clockwise from top left: Shirley Maguire, Ian Phillips, Bob Horton, Graham Hunt, Anna Breinl and Ros Torrent (photos: SM, GH, RT: Lorraine Beach; IP, BH, AB: Richard Blair)



Marrickville Council's 2012 Directory of Services for older adults, people with a disability and their carers in the Marrickville area was recently updated. Copies can be obtained from Council on 9335 2222 or by checking Council's website <www.marrickville.nsw.gov.au>.

Corrections from February 2012 newsletter:

1. Rosemary Woods (p. 1) should be Wood
2. Unc White (p. 4) should be Unk

Long regarded as 'the symbol of the Theatre Organ Society', **Frank Ellis** died on 22 December 2011 aged 94. Although never a MHS member he was known to some members and was one of the most prominent figures in the Theatre Organ Society of Australia. He compered TOSA concerts for over three decades, with his last concert at Marrickville Town Hall in 2003. Frank had an article 'Marrickville's World Famous Wurlitzer' in the MHS journal *Heritage* 6. He was also a founding member of the Australian Cinema and Theatre Society in 1982.

RHS 150th anniversary book launch

On 9 February I attended the book launch of the Royal Horticultural Society's 150th anniversary celebratory book, *From Our Gardens* held in the Dixon Room of the State Library and launched by the Society's Patron, Her Excellency, Professor Marie Bashir, AC CVO, Governor of NSW. Simon Marnie hosted the event and RHS Honorary President, Cecily Rogers, also addressed the gathering. This compact book covers the history and achievements of the Society since 1862. Available from the RHS at \$24.95.

Sue Miller

150th anniversary for NSW Police Force

On 1 March statewide celebrations took place in recognition that 1 March 1862 'was when the existing independent police units of the colony were amalgamated into the single NSW Police Force.' According to *New South Wales Police Force 1862-1962 Centenary Brochure* (a 128-page book) the Force was established after the passing of the Police Regulation Act on 21 January 1862.

The first Inspector-General was Captain John McLerie (21 January 1862 until his death on 6 October 1874). The Centenary book outlines his distinguished career. He was buried in Camperdown Cemetery. *Historic Camperdown* by Rev TG Rees described him as the 'Father of the Police Force and suppressor of bush-rangers. Greatly respected by the police of his day, who all gave a day's wages towards the cost of erection of [a] monument and stained glass window in St Andrew's Cathedral.' The granite monument was designed by colonial architect, James Barnett.

His successor was Inspector-General Edmund Fosbery who served for almost 30 years until he retired on 1 July 1904, after which he became a member of the Legislative Council. He died in 1919 and was also buried in Camperdown Cemetery.

When the centenary celebrations of the NSW Police Force were held in May 1962, *Daily Telegraph* columnist, Ray Castle* wrote (11 May 1962): 'The gendarmierie of this city is certainly going gay — or has been, this week, with its Centenary Celebrations, parades, balls, and-what-have-you making thief-taking a secondary consideration.' Whilst recent festivities for the 150th anniversary coincided with the Sydney Mardi Gras, I saw no such wording in the local press.

The Justice & Police Museum will hold an exhibition *The Force: 150 Years of NSW Police* from 12 May. And, fortuitously, author Larry Writer's talk to the Society on 21 April will be on Frank Bumper Farrell, who has been described as the 'roughest, toughest street cop Australia has ever seen'. Most timely in terms of this landmark sesquicentenary for our police force.

Richard Blair

* Ray Castle was a play on words for Castlereagh, in which street the Telegraph office was situated. The Ray Castle column was pseudonymously written.

Note 1862 was also the year of the formation of Newtown Municipal Council, which was incorporated on 12 December 1862. The council was amalgamated with City of Sydney Council on 1 January 1949, although in 1968 parts of Newtown and Camperdown were transferred to the control of Marrickville Council.

Demolition for Sydenham's Coptic Church

No one could accuse Marrickville Council of making a rash decision in recently voting to demolish the Coptic Church in Railway Road. Previously Tempe Park Methodist Church, it had existed on this site since 1884, even though the extended current church was built in 1904. Ever since the federal government handed this building for free to Marrickville Council in 1996, Council appears to have made efforts to find a community use for it or to enable a suitable group to come forward to do so. They have organised a Heritage Impact Study which indicated how costly it would be to adequately restore the building.

The Society has advocated strongly for years to save the church. At the February council meeting, only four councillors voted to retain the building, which will go the way of many other local churches, where patronage has declined, the church has been deconsecrated and the building deemed surplus to requirements. However, did not the federal member once declare this church building could be turned into a museum? Who's to say that, down the track, someone with means could not undertake a conversion in the manner of the two TV series *Restoration Home* or *Grand Designs*? Indeed, as reported in *Domain*, *Sydney Morning Herald* on 25/2/12: 'At Newtown, an unusual three bedroom residence in a former church hall was snapped up two days before its scheduled auction for \$980,000.'

In accordance with existing terms, after demolition, the site will become green space and no doubt some tokenistic remembrance to the church will be installed, such that on future walking tours of the area, the guide can utter those dreaded words: 'Over there once stood . . .' In July 1996 amidst the demolition by the federal government of the 195 or so houses in Sydenham supposedly due to aircraft noise, the Society conducted a walk which was titled 'So Long Sydenham'. This description is even more apt today with Sydenham's sole surviving church seemingly doomed for all time.

Richard Blair

Inside History magazine (March-April 2012) is available by phoning 9590 9600 or <www.insidehistory.com.au>

Autumn Trivia Question



Where's this in Marrickville LGA? Richard 9557 3823 or <heritagesociety@optusnet.com.au>.

Calendar of Events

Saturday 17 March

MHS stall 9-3

Alex Trevallion Plaza Marrickville

Saturday 24 March

Visit to Mechanical Music Museum

Details on front page

Saturday 21 April

Larry Writer talk on Frank Bumper Farrell

(meeting a week earlier than usual)

Free community talks at Sydney Park

Sydney Park Pavillion, Euston Road

Alexandria (parking off Sydney Park Road)

Sunday 18 March 9.30 am

The Sydney Park Story

with Chrys Meader, author & historian

Hear about the Gadigal people who lived in the area before white settlement, the importance of the site for brickmaking and the early plans for a park on this former tip.

Sunday 1 April 9.30 am

Birds of Sydney Park

with Katie Oxenham & Holly Parsons

Learn about the birds and other creatures who make the park their home, and what is being done by the City of Sydney to support wildlife, and what you can do.

**Theatre Organ Society of Australia
presents Bill Schumacher & Debbie Fitzsummons
playing *In The Groove*
on the Wurlitzer Unit Orchestra & Grand Piano
Marrickville Town Hall (disabled access)
Sunday 18 March 2 pm**

Bookings: 0410 626 131, online <www.tosa.net.au> or pay at door: Members \$20; non-member pensioner / senior card \$25; non-members \$27.50; students (17-21) \$10; under 17 years free; group bookings for 10 or more adults \$20 each, for 10 or more students \$8.

St Peters Cooks River History Group

Saturday 14 April 2-4 pm

Tempe Walk

Meet at Tempe Station (Griffith Street). Walk around the suburb of Tempe and discover the people and places involved in education, industry, sport, mental health, building and the arts. Good walking shoes advisable; parking near station. **Free, but bookings essential as numbers limited:** 9558 7504.

Saturday 21 April 2-4 pm

St Peters Graveyard Tour St Peters Anglican Church, 187 Princes Highway. Copper mining, public entertainment, housing, postage stamps, fire engines, an emporium and a zoo. People involved in these ventures are buried in this graveyard at St Peters. Come and hear their stories. Good walking shoes advisable; parking in church grounds (approach from the south). **Free, but bookings essential:** 9558 7504.



Stone's corner shop Tempe 1901

From information provided by **Ken Johnston:**

Edward and Hanora Stone's two storey shop at **828 King Street Tempe** was on the northern corner of Barden Street. There is still a two-storey building there, now 816-820 Princes Highway Tempe, housing an ever changing range of businesses. The current building may be the same, but much altered, however due to road widening around 1926-27 it may be a different building. Ken's grandmother, Ruby, known to Ken as Nan, is pictured above in her mother's arms. Some of the children pictured are not Stones. Ken first saw this photo as a child, but next saw it in 2005 inside an old Christmas card among Nan's papers.

Nan's brother John, at age 12, was awarded a Bronze medal by the Royal Shipwreck Relief & Humane Society of NSW for rescuing a lad named WE Hay who had fallen into Cooks River on 5 January 1906 (reported in SMH, 4 May 1906). Nan's youngest brother Eric, aged five, was run over and killed by a car outside the shop in July 1916.

In World War I Nan's brothers Percy & William sailed on the *Nestor* for Egypt in 1916. Percy joined the 1st Light Horse, fought in Palestine and Nan said he was at the Charge of Beersheba. He was wounded shortly after in another battle. William, though a professional jockey, did not join the Light Horse, but went with the 13th Battalion to France where he was killed at the Battle of Stormy Trench in 1917 aged 21. Both names are on the St Peters Town Hall Honour Roll.

The shop sold just about everything including pies, baked on the premises. Ken still has cards of buttons and pins, the lolly scales and a few brownish-blue salt-glazed earthenware marbles that Nan called 'scotchies'. The Stones owned the shop until the late 1920s and the family moved around the corner to 28 Smith Street Tempe.

Note Thanks to **Ken Johnston** for permission to use this photo, **Laurel Horton** for information about John Stone's award and rescue, and former president, **Scott MacArthur** for bringing this to our attention. And no, this family are not related to MHS member, **Harry Stone**. **Editor**

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