

MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY INC.

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MARRICKVILLE PETERSHAM STANMORE
& PARTS OF CAMPERDOWN & NEWTOWN

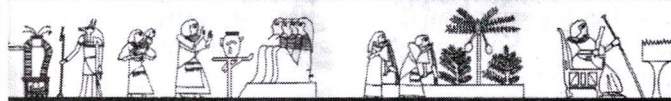


OUR NEXT MEETING

The Egyptian Room, Masonic Temple
23-25 New Canterbury Road Petersham
Saturday 22 September 10.15 for 10.30 am

Short walk from Petersham Station. Meet outside temple. Room on first floor - no lift. Cost \$10 (pay on day). Bookings Mary 9560 6409. Optional lunch after at Petersham RSL Club, Regent Street around corner.

The Egyptian Room was created by eminent sculptor George Rayner Hoff in the Scottish Royal Arch Temple, College Street, Sydney in 1927. Dismantled in the late 1960s it was re-erected in the Petersham Royal Arch Masonic Temple in 1977. In 1979 the Egyptian Room was classified by the National Trust. The Heritage Branch describes its significance: 'An impressive interior that demonstrates the careful restoration of the finely executed original decoration. The decorative theme has some precedent in Masonic ceremonial chambers but the richness of it in this room is probably unique in Australia. The survival of such rich and extensive large scale interior decoration is rare.'



The Egyptian Room - which is maintained under the dedicated care of the United Supreme Grand Chapter of Mark and Royal Arch Masons of NSW and the ACT - is decorated in the style of Ancient Egypt, with a magnificent frieze reproducing illustrations from the Papyrus of Ani, an Egyptian funerary text of about 1450 BC. The decorations are sculpted in low relief plaster and painted in rich colours.

Warne Place development retaining wall at risk

Two Marrickville residents (non MHS members) have expressed concerns to the Society and Marrickville Council about the historic wall that is under pressure from the development at 525 Illawarra Road Marrickville (aka Warne Place) and have advised that parts of the wall are falling down and are perhaps being destroyed. They are keen to protect what is left of this historic wall. They have seen builders placing objects on the wall causing parts of it to fall into the construction site. They trust that these parts have been kept to restore the wall to its original condition.

It is believed that the Land and Environment Court said in its summation that this wall was to be preserved. Clarification is being sought from Council on this point such that what is left of the wall can be saved 'before it's too late for this piece of Marrickville history'.

History Week 2012: 8-16 September

Details of local events on back page

NSW Planning System Proposal From the RAHS website:

'The NSW Government has released *A New Planning System for NSW* - Green Paper outlining its proposals for a statewide planning system. This can be downloaded from <www.planning.nsw.gov.au>. There has been some concern in heritage circles at the implications of this new system and we encourage affiliated societies and individual members who have an interest in the history and heritage of their areas to make a submission to the NSW Government. The RAHS will be making a submission on behalf of its members. A submission does not have to be large, and a simple one page letter or email is sufficient. **Submissions close Friday 14 September 2012.**'

'The Green Paper proposes, for example, the establishment of a CEOs Group involving key agencies, and one notable omission is the Chief Executive of the Office of Environment and Heritage.'

Much of the terminology and jargon of the Green Paper is not easily understood by many lay people. The intent of the Green Paper seems designed to facilitate more development and reduce the significance and impact of 'heritage'. - Editor

The Society congratulates RAHS Councillor and former RAHS President **Dr Ian Jack** who has been named Chair of the Heritage Council's History Panel.



Bob Irving has been given this charming photo of 'a meeting of the Holy Trinity [Church Dulwich Hill] Guides and Brownies supposedly at a local house, sometime in about the late 1920s'. It appears that the girl in front of the Guide leader on the left is either being sworn in or is receiving some award. Can anyone identify the house or confirm the year? One possibility is 'Abergeldie' which was demolished in 1926, but guide rallies were held in the grounds there.

OUR LAST MEETING

King Fong on the history of Chinese settlement in Australia since the 1850s

On 25 August our largest attendance in some time heard **Mr King Fong**, vice president of the Australian Chinese Historical Society, take us through a brief history of Chinese settlement in Australia, starting from the Victorian gold rush days of the 1850s through the life and times of Quong Tart to the history of Chinese market gardens and the hard times experienced by many Chinese immigrants in this strange foreign land.

Our speaker is a good example of someone who succeeded despite the obstacles placed in his way. Life was not easy for the many Chinese who chose to risk their luck in a country very different from their own. Some came lured by the possibility of discovering gold, others seeking a better life. But the hardships were many. They faced discrimination, a new language, and laws designed to discourage them from settling. But they persevered and many prospered and made good in their adopted country. One example was LJ Tingyou, who was refused a licence to sell real estate. He disappeared for three years and reinvented himself as a Caucasian with the new name of LJ Hooker (chosen, we were told, as he liked to play as a hooker in rugby). He had to keep his origins secret as it was illegal to identify yourself as white European if you were Chinese. He wasn't successful initially but he persevered and eventually became a household name.

We were amazed to learn that in an 1860s census of the Chinese population, there were 12,986 males and only one female. It had improved somewhat by 1901 when there were 29,153 males recorded and 474 females. Australia did not prevent Chinese men from bringing their families here, but they had to be wealthy enough to be given permission, and they could only bring parents, wives and male children. Unattached females were not allowed. This resulted in many Chinese marrying convict or Aboriginal women.

There was one concession made for the Chinese that was not done for any other nationality. Bank notes were issued with added Chinese characters so that non English speaking Chinese would understand the value of the bank notes they had worked so hard to earn. There was, however, a premium to be paid to obtain these special bank notes. There were many restrictions that were imposed on the immigrant Chinese. They were labelled as Aliens, were only able to apply for citizenship after 15 years of residency and were required to earn or have a minimum income in order to stay in Australia. As Mr Fong was heard to say afterwards, Australians used to believe that 'two Wongs did not make a White'.

Many thanks to Mr King Fong for his entertaining and informative talk.

Rosemary Wood

Note: Over 70 people attended King Fong's talk. As a token of the Society's thanks King Fong was presented with tins of moon cakes and of egg rolls. Special thanks to Anna Lee who suggested and purchased these very fitting items.

Curry Ribbons story

Professional photographer Steph Jones was asked by David Curry to prepare a photographic history of his Petersham-based family business and the result was *Curry Ribbons story: a collection of photographs and a brief history of JT Curry & Co*. Steph presented an illustrated talk at Marrickville Library on 28 April with displays of old style artefacts and many samples of ribbons.

Jack Thomas Curry (1917-2005) and his friend Muir Gibb set up a millinery supply company in 1947. Though they stayed friends, their business partnership soon dissolved and Jack took over the ribbon side of the company. He began trading as JT Curry & Co on 1 July 1950 in the Culwalla Chambers, 67 Castlereagh Street, Sydney. Jack's son David joined the company full time in 1979, by which time they had relocated to the Dymocks building. Jack retired in 1984 but maintained a watchful eye over the business.

In 1986 David expanded the business by introducing manufacturing and relocating to 319-325 Trafalgar



Street Petersham (pictured) where it remains. His brothers John and Graham have also been involved. The company has produced over 3,000 different bespoke ribbons in all colours and

sizes. Its major client for over 60 years has been David Jones, but other customers have included BHP Billiton, Deloitte, Lotto, Panasonic and many more. Owing to expansion the company has purchased premises at Katoomba where larger machines and bulk materials are stored.

Steph Jones's book is a lavish production. David and Margaret Curry have been MHS members since 1988 and Steph is also a MHS member. Her website address is <www.stephjones-photography.com>

Diane McCarthy

From Shirley Hilyard: So is this *Petersham* ribbon?

Users can now access Marrickville's historical records and resources online at Marrickville Library. Also accessible are the Victor Levitt Postcard collection from World War I and the Annette Kellerman Postcard collection. The digital collections can be accessed via Council's website and Library portal.



Rosemary Wood, King Fong and Iain Carolin at the Herb Greedy Hall talk (photo: Richard Blair)

2012 MHS Publications Report

When I presented my report last year I indicated our expectation was that the launch of our book of essays *Marrickville: a past worth preserving* would take place before the year's end. This expectation was fulfilled in November. The book was the culmination of our successful essay competition which was followed by considerable work on the part of the three editors. It was a good collaborative effort facilitated in no small degree by the level of cooperation from the essay authors. The use of heavier glossy paper and due care by our printer, Gopher Graphics, contributed towards the quality of the publication. Sales have been steady and as Keith Sutton likes to reassure me, the content of these essays, articles and memoirs will be just as valid in ten years time as they are now.

We've been pursuing whatever marketing methods we can through the local press and through magazines including *Ciao*, *Inside History* and *RAHS's History*. In addition, with the assistance of Council we plan to get a copy of the book into each of the ten local high schools with the expectation that the book will be a good local history resource tool and with the added hope that some parents may decide to buy a copy. Also, as members are aware, we are currently offering a discount on the book together with renewal of their membership.

Little progress has been made on the next MHS journal but some articles are in the pipeline. It won't be out this year but we will keep you posted. All publications take time and effort and there never seem to be enough hands on deck to make it happen.

The newsletter continues to appear on schedule each month and for the first time it came out a week *ahead* of schedule in May to accommodate a weekend country engagement I had. It is always grim to have obituaries in the newsletter and we have had quite a few in the past year, which is not surprising given we have nearly 440 members. We sadly lost **Marie Colbron Conroy, Henry Venables, Leslee Isted, Betty Biffin, Les Logan, Frank 'Mac' Cottee, Vivien York, Leslee Muir and Norman McVicker.**

We have again had lots of contributors but the list is getting too long to name individuals. However, some whose efforts are ongoing rather than intermittent deserve special mention. Firstly our president **Sonia Laverty** who is always supportive and has proved a strong advocate for the Society; secondly the rest of the committee but especially **Pamela Stewart**, who has notched up 15 years of posting the newsletter to members; **Ian Phillips**, chief runner, who would willingly be replaced but accepts he is irreplaceable; **Diane McCarthy**, who is much more than merely treasurer, has also kindly delivered quite a number of copies of the Marrickville essay book to members' doors, a gesture which saves considerably on postage; and **Lorraine Beach** for her ongoing abundant day-to-day assistance. Also I thank **Shirley Hilyard** who is now in her 18th year of helping fine tune the newsletter, and still hasn't lost her touch!

Thanks to our band of trusty drivers: **Tony and Anna Breinl, Diane McCarthy, Graeme Napier, Pamela Stewart, Keith Sutton and Ken Turner.** Three runners have hung up their running shoes: sincere thanks to **Maree Blanchard and Ken Swinbourne**

after about ten years apiece and **Barbara Gibbons** who has pounded the beat in her sector of Stanmore for over 20 years. We welcome **Marg Ludlow** who now handles Maree's district in Marrickville and **Ruth Olip** who has taken over from Ken in Dulwich Hill east. Barbara's run has been taken over by **Nigel Butterley**, whose existing territory has been extended.

Thanks to regular runners: **Lu Bell, Richard Blair, John Blattman, Tricia Blombery and Stuart Grigg, Nigel Butterley, June Cameron and Ken Turner, Iain Carolin, Lucille Dunstan, Rosemary Fallon, Ann Fenton, Audrey Furney, Jean Hartman, Colin Hesse, Shirley Hilyard, Allan Outlaw, Ian Phillips, Jan Pickering, Peter Robertson, Pamela Stewart, Vivien Wherry and Richard White;** also, thanks to **Ken Cullen** for dispersing the newsletter at Council. Runners do take holidays and have been relieved by **Di Beckett, Michele Carton, Roger Gazard, Laurel Horton, Pat Jessop, Chris King, Graeme Napier, Corinne O'Loughlin, Ann Petersen and Keith Sutton.**

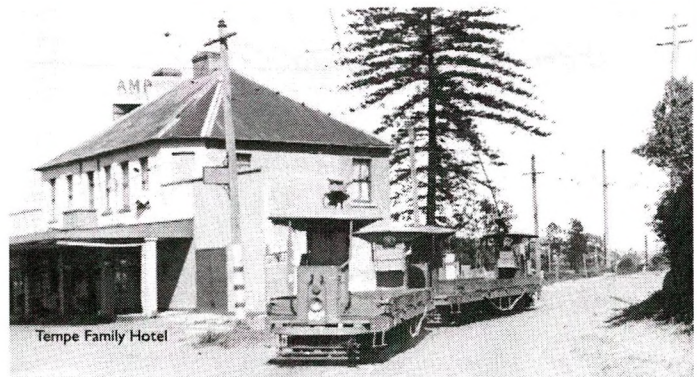
How gratifying to have so many willing to give their time to spread the load and further the aims of this Society. I trust they all find it as worthwhile as I do.

Richard Blair

Spring Trivia Question

We are several nearby streets in Marrickville LGA whose names are linked. These names are replicated in some other suburbs. Name and locate us and identify the link. (Note: We don't have common street names like King, Railway, Victoria etc nor are we the first names of related offspring.) Richard 9557 3823 or email <heritagesociety@optusnet.com.au>.

Karina from Academy Brand thanks all those who provided information by email about 1960s motels for a fashion shoot. Members notified likely motels in Ashfield, Bathurst (2), Glebe, Grenfell, Gundagai, Kiama, Nimmitabel and Nowra. Karina said they ended up using a house in Wahrenonga on Fox Valley Way in disrepair with the garden overgrown. They may consider these motels for future shoots.



Original caption to this photo: 'Ballast Motors entering Lusty Street from Princes Highway, circa 1950'

An archaeologist excavating part of the carpark at the Woolworths being built at Wolli Creek, cnr Princes Highway and Brodie Spark Drive, has uncovered foundations of the **Tempe Family Hotel** which long stood here but was demolished after c. 1950. The hotel, built by **John McInnes**, was named due to its location near **Tempe House**. It was here that on 13 January 1871 the **Municipal District of West Botany** was proclaimed. It was later renamed the **Gladstone Hotel**. Thanks to **Laurel Horton** for bringing this to the Society's attention.

Calendar of Events

Saturday 22 September

Inspection of Egyptian Room, Petersham

Details on front page

Saturday 27 October

To be advised

Saturday 24 November

Robert Parkinson talk on picture shows in the Marrickville and Newtown areas

History Week at Marrickville Library

Theme: *Threads*: 'Marrickville Library and History Services explores the local history of threads, unpicking the meaning behind the wardrobes of the past, and how history's threads link us all together.'

11 September – 3 October

Exhibition – Migrating cultures: first and second generation migrants in Marrickville

Monday 10 September 10-11 am

Vicars Woollen Mills 1893-1976

Talk by **John Vicars** (last General Manager)

Tuesday 11 September 11 am – 12 noon

The Australian Dress Register

Powerhouse Museum project coordinator **Rebecca**

Pinchin talks on the ADR dating back to the 1890s

Wednesday 12 September 6.30 – 8 pm

Faith, Fashion, Fusion: Muslim women's style in Australia with Powerhouse Museum curator **Glynis Jones**

Friday 14 September 6.30 pm

Sydney Harbour: A History talk by **Dr Ian Hoskins**

At Petersham Town Hall

Wednesday 12 September 11 am – 12.30 pm

Out of the Archives with Archivist Library & History Services **Ben Arnfield**, who will present original plans of Marrickville and Petersham Town Halls

All bookings 9335 2173.

Two Valley Trail Reconciliation Walk Sunday 16 September

Organised by Canterbury Aboriginal Advisory Group, the Cooks River Valley Association and the Wolli Creek Preservation Society, with support from the City of Canterbury. For meeting place details and how to book ring 0414 910 816 or go to:

<www.canterbury.nsw.gov.au>

Remember the June 2001 Winter Trivia Question on the artists of Newtown's now famous 1991 mural? Throughout August, the Newtown Dendy had bi-weekly free screenings (subsidised by Marrickville Council) of the evocative 30-minute doco *I Have a Dream*, for which Council gave grant money. If you missed it, there's likely to be further screenings in November to coincide with the sesquicentenary of the Incorporation of Newtown Municipal Council.

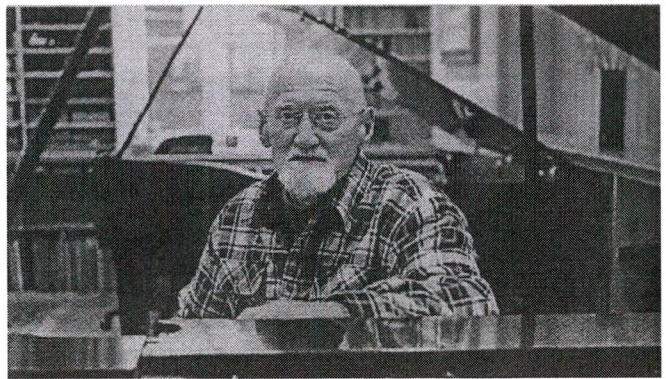
PRESIDENT Geoff 9568 3029

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Vale – Denis Condon (1933-2012)



In *The Sydney Morning Herald* death notice (1/9/12) for **Denis Francis Condon**, who died on 30 August aged 78, Denis was described as 'Musician, Teacher, Mentor, Generous Friend'. He led a very full life and inspired an untold number of people. A fondly remembered music teacher at Fort Street Boys High School in the 1960s, he was an accomplished choir-master winning several competitions at Eisteddfods with his school choirs and madrigal groups. An innovator, he introduced students to music probably scorned by more traditional music teachers. He was a music lecturer at Sydney Teacher's College for many years. After retirement he continued to give talks, largely on opera, to a group he co-founded with Joan Griffin in 1989 called Opera Lunedi, an opera appreciation group which still meets regularly.

Born in Hamilton, NSW Denis started collecting piano rolls from the age of 15. Not pianola rolls, but rolls for the reproducing piano which 'recorded the degree of the force with which each note must be struck to reproduce the music as the artist played it in the recording session – a faithful reproduction of their playing style and technique.' Hence piano played by the likes of Stravinsky, Gershwin, Rachmaninov, Debussy, Rubinstein, Horowitz, Paderewski and Percy Grainger. Eventually Denis had amassed over 8,000 piano rolls, and not merely classical ones. Over 20 years ago his rolls began to be re-recorded on CD culminating in the Condon Collection with thousands of rolls permanently preserved. He often gave radio broadcasts using his rolls.

Denis also collected several player pianos adapting them such that he held soirées at home where dozens could be entertained by piano rolls, accompanied by dimmed lights and a well-informed commentary. He hosted MHS members on three occasions (1986, 1994 and 1997). He wrote articles for many publications including in *Heritage* 7 (1992): 'The Reproducing Piano and its Music'. He was a MHS member.

At Fort Street I was privileged to sing in his choir. Years later when I moved to the inner city, fate found me living just a block away from Denis and I was again privileged to have him in my life as a near neighbour. Denis mentored many budding singers and musicians and had an impact on countless students who did not necessarily pursue music professionally. He was a remarkable man whose legacy will remain in the Condon Collection. And he was one of nature's true gentlemen. Our condolences to his family and longtime partner Robert Mitchell.

Richard Blair