

MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY INC.

DULWICH HILL ENMORE LEWISHAM
ST PETERS SYDENHAM TEMPE

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& PARTS OF CAMPERDOWN & NEWTOWN



OUR NEXT MEETING

**The story of St Peters Church Cooks River:
Illustrated talk with Laurel and Bob Horton
Saturday 27 October 10.15 for 10.30 am
Herb Greedy Hall 79 Petersham Rd Marrickville**

St Peters Church Cooks River is the oldest building in the Marrickville LGA. St Peters was the first church built south of Sydney. It is a rare example of a primitive Gothic revival church and was one of the first churches to be constructed as a result of the Religious Establishment Act of 1836. Next year the church will be celebrating its 175th anniversary.



St Peters Church Cooks River (photo: Laurel Horton)

Longterm members **Laurel and Bob Horton** founded the St Peters Church Cooks River History Group. With Laurel the church historian and Bob chief researcher, they regularly conduct historical walking tours and have published books and produced DVDs. Between them they contributed six of the essays in *Marrickville: a past worth preserving*.

Dr Lesley Muir, who died in May, will be recognised at the RAHS annual conference at Wolli Creek on 20 October by the Inaugural Lesley Muir Address to be delivered by Professor Peter Spearritt.

Lesley's beloved Canterbury & District Historical Society is planting a camellia in the garden of Beulah Vista in Lesley's memory on 6 October. It will also dedicate its records room as The Lesley Muir Research Room and a nameplate will be affixed at a ceremony on 1 December. This will be part of that society's celebration of its 50th anniversary.

Marrickville Festival: Sunday 21 October

The Society will hold its usual stall at this year's festival. Could any member wishing to assist on the day please ring Iain on 0400 473 252?

NSW Planning System Proposal

From *The Sydney Morning Herald* (15-16/9/2012):

Developers and planners are not convinced that the state government's proposal to remove the public's right to have its say on each and every local development will deliver a better system, according to the first independent survey of professionals working in the industry.

Most of those canvassed in the research also conceded that the government's green paper seeking to overhaul planning laws would advantage property developers at the expense of the public.

The social planner and researcher Jo Manion, who conducted and analysed the survey, consulted more than 70 town planners, architects, property developers, project managers, lawyers and planning advocates.

The resulting preliminary paper, co-produced with the market researcher Marketinfo – independent of government and industry input – found that almost 80% of respondents believed the proposed system would advantage property developers.

More than half said the changes would disadvantage the public and almost as many believed councils would be similarly disadvantaged.

Ms Manion said that while the industry mostly agreed the current system was unwieldy, developers and planners were yet to be convinced that removing public participation at the DA level would deliver the best overall economic, environmental and social results.

'The most interesting insight was [the opinion] that it was unrealistic for the government to attempt to depoliticise the planning process,' she said. 'The planning process is of itself political, and governments need to recognise this and figure out how to work with it instead of trying to remove the politics.'

Under the proposed changes, developers will be able to expedite the approval process through the limitation of public input at the DA stage. Residents would consent to an agreed level of growth in their neighbourhoods, and developers would then be able to build free from local objections, provided they worked within the framework.

The Planning Minister, Brad Hazzard, said the public's right to have a say would be enhanced by a guaranteed charter of rights.

'The current system is dysfunctional and has seen site-specific wars whenever a new park, a new development – indeed, any new proposal – is up for consideration,' a spokesman said.

The Greens MP David Shoebridge said the survey proved the green paper was pro-developer and would unreasonably exclude the public.

Kelly Burke (Urban Affairs)

OUR LAST MEETING

Egyptian Room Masonic Temple Petersham

Over 70 MHS members and friends gathered on 22 September at a 'secret' venue in the Royal Arch Masonic Temple in Petersham. Upstairs the so-called Egyptian Room is decorated with a wonderful frieze in the Egyptian style depicting the story of Ani, a scribe who lived in Egypt during the 18th Dynasty (1500-1400 BC). The frieze is a reproduction of the Scroll of Ani, being his version of the life hereafter. The original roll of Papyrus, which measures 78 feet by 15 inches, is in the British Museum.

Our host, **Bill Richards** OAM, began by describing the making of papyrus and the mummification process. He then introduced the Gods, beginning with Osiris and explained their place in the Pantheon. Moving to the North Wall, our host explained the meaning of each vignette in the frieze depicting the journey of Ani and his wife Thuthu (pronounced 'Tutu') through the gates and passages of the underworld. After a very illuminating and informative tour of the frieze, he explained the meaning of a superb reproduction of a Funerary Stele from the 20th dynasty (1200-1150 BC) on the South Wall. He also explained the symbols decorating the walls including pomegranates, lotus, papyrus leaves and the hieroglyph of Nefertiti.

Bill emphasised the many practices/usages in areas such as the law and religion which survive until today in some form or other. For example, the Funerary Stele includes an area of blue and white check which is associated with our police uniforms and, therefore, authority.

The room was originally installed in 1927 in the Royal Arch Temple in College Street, Sydney, the sculptor being G Rayner Hoff, a Freemason, who also sculpted much of the Sydney War Memorial. With the imminent demolition of that building, the magnificent frieze was removed and re-erected in Petersham in 1977. In answer to a question about the paint, Bill explained that there has been no repainting since 1927 and that the creators of the room conducted a spectrology test on the paint of the scroll to recreate the colours. Recent rain caused seepage through the roof into the false ceiling above the room and created a hole in the ceiling which caused much consternation amongst Bill's Masonic colleagues.

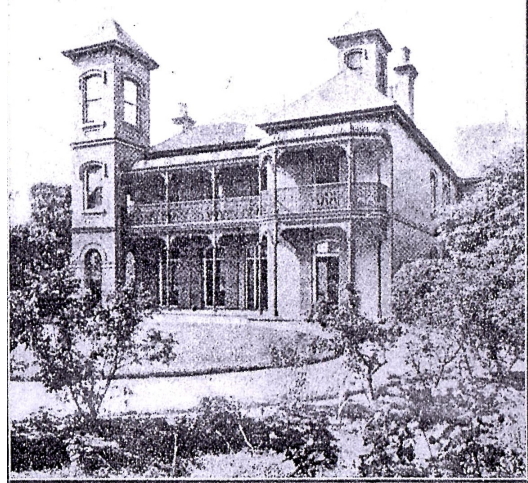
President, Geoff Ostling, thanked Bill Richards for his entertaining presentation. We are privileged to have this unique heritage-listed room in our local area. Space precludes more than a superficial description of the frieze here, but a beautifully illustrated booklet (\$10), fully explaining the frieze, is available from the temple (9569 5699 or <www.usgcnsw.org.au>).

Several members and guests later enjoyed lunch at the nearby Petersham RSL.

Mary Oakenfull



What and where was this mansion?



Speculation in the last newsletter that this Brownies photo may have been taken at 'Abergeldie' in Dulwich Hill is refuted by this (8/12/1915) *Sydney Mail* article that indicates the 'Brownie' mansion is identical with the one in the article about Trinity Grammar School. A photo in *Trinity Grammar School: a history* (1974) by CE Latham & Alan Nichols confirms the building was 'The Towers' which stood on the corner of New Canterbury Road, Toothill Street and The Boulevarde. The Rev George Chambers, rector at Holy Trinity, Dulwich Hill, founded Trinity Grammar, which was initially in 'Hazeldean' (or 'Hazeldene') in The Boulevarde, Dulwich Hill for a few months in 1913 before moving to the nearby grounds of 'The Towers' where the school remained until the end of 1923. Following a land swap deal Trinity Grammar was relocated to its current Summer Hill site in 1926 whilst the site of 'The Towers' was acquired by the Department of Education, which established the girls school of Dulwich Hill Public there.

Sunday, December 6, 1915. The Sydney Mail. 25

Views of Trinity Grammar School, Dulwich Hill

Close to Lewisham or Wardell Road Railway Station, SYDNEY.

A Day and Boarding School for Boys in connection with the Church of England.
Registered as a High School by the Bursary Endowment Board. Classes for Small Boys.

WOMEN OF THE ARCHBISHOP OF SYDNEY.

WARDEN:

The Rev. G. A. Chambers, M.A.

CHURCH SECRETARY:

The Rev. W. G. Hilliard, M.A.

FRONT VIEW OF SCHOOL.

Advantages of the School.

- i. Superior and efficient teaching.
- ii. Excellent boarding, day, and vacation schools, and a complete system of instruction.
- iii. A complete system of instruction.
- iv. A complete system of instruction.
- v. A complete system of instruction.
- vi. A complete system of instruction.
- vii. A complete system of instruction.
- viii. A complete system of instruction.
- ix. A complete system of instruction.
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- xi. A complete system of instruction.
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- xiii. A complete system of instruction.
- xiv. A complete system of instruction.
- xv. A complete system of instruction.
- xvi. A complete system of instruction.
- xvii. A complete system of instruction.
- xviii. A complete system of instruction.
- xix. A complete system of instruction.
- xx. A complete system of instruction.

THE PROFESSOR.

THE PROFESSOR.

A TYPICAL YEAR.

This does not clarify *when* the Brownies photo was taken, but maybe some member could advise when 'The Towers' was demolished or recognise a familiar face. Thanks to member **Jan Pickering** for producing this cutting and for **Bob Irving's** further assistance.

Richard Blair

Spring Trivia Answer

1880-85 were boom years for Sydney and this was significantly reflected in real estate. With the Tramways Extension Bill (1880), tramlines were proposed and laid along routes not yet accessible by rail (the only suburban train route being Sydney-Parramatta). Building societies began to thrive and on 10 June 1880 the Excelsior Land Investment and Building Company and Bank, Limited was formed. Its founders were **George Renwick, John Roseby, Ambrose Thornley Junior, Ambrose Thornley Senior, William Cary, William Day, William Jarrett** and **Alfred Rofe**. On 18 September 1880 hundreds of building lots started to be sold on the Elswick Estate, Leichhardt (although it was advertised as being in Petersham, presumably because it had the nearest railway station) with streets in the subdivision being named after the Excelsior directors (plus Reuss Street which was named after architect, Ferdinand Reuss).

In 1881, following further land acquisition, Excelsior opened up the Birkenhead Estate at present day Drummoyne (where several streets continue to retain names of the directors) and the Warren Estate in Marrickville. The tramline was extended to the Empress of India Hotel on the corner of Illawarra and Marrickville Roads. The major beneficiary of this was landowner, Thomas Holt. Hence **Thornley, Roseby, Day, Cary and Renwick Streets** were named, whilst **Premier Street** was named in honour of the NSW Premier, Henry Parkes. Running at right angles to three of these streets was **Excelsior Parade**. As in Leichhardt, Ambrose Thornley Jnr and his partner John Smedley were the Excelsior architects. With the tramline finished, John Lackey MLA and Secretary for Public Works officiated at a formal reception at Marrickville Town Hall on 30 May 1882.

In the late 1880s Excelsior developed the Toronto Estate, on Lake Macquarie, near Newcastle such that Toronto still has several streets named after those directors as well as an Ambrose Street. Excelsior continued to bring affordable housing to many, but suffered financial difficulties from the 1890s and had ceased to exist by the late 1920s.

Richard Blair

Note: Details largely gleaned from the booklet '*Excelsior: A history of the Excelsior Land Investment and Building Company and Bank, Limited Sydney, 1880-1928*' by John Pettit and Tony James (Sydney 2000). This booklet drew heavily from: (a) 'The Excelsior Subdivision: Land and building development in Leichhardt South' by Peter Reynolds, *Leichhardt Historical Journal*, nos. 17-21, January 1993-May 1997; and (b) 'Shady Acres: Politicians, developers and the design of Sydney's public transport system 1873-1891' by Lesley Muir, PhD Thesis, University of Sydney, June 1994. Thanks to **Ian Phillips** who excelled himself in suggesting the question.

The Wild Ones: Sydney Stadium 1908-1970

Museum of Sydney, Corner Phillip & Bridge Streets
Open daily 9.30 am to 5 pm
Admission free with museum entry
Until 10 March 2013

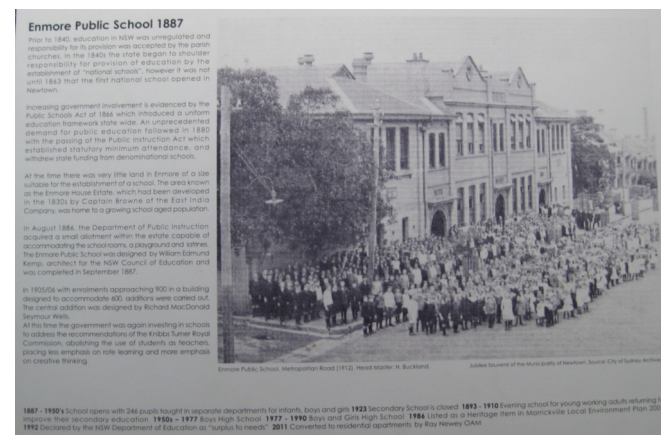


Gordon Hill has advised the Justice & Police Museum exhibition *Collision: Misadventure by motorcar* (which ends 14 October) contains some Marrickville-related collisions. This one of: 'a crumpled Singer roadster had a caption that simply said "Parramatta Road"'. I think it is probably the early 1940s. I've checked the shops and buildings in the background with existing street-scapes, but don't recognise anything.' One possibility is looking west from the corner of Crystal Street, Petersham. Curious is the total absence of vehicles and people (and rubbish) on Parramatta Road.

* * * *



The Society joined broad community opposition to moves in 2009 by the state government to sell the 1887 William Kemp-designed **Enmore Public School** in Metropolitan Road to developers on the grounds of likely increase of population, loss of a public asset and the potential for degradation of the integrity of the building's interiors. Externally the development for units seems commendable. The descriptive plate on the front of the building (below) outlines the history of the school though omits reference to the ten years it was leased to the Adult Migrant Education Service after the school closed in 1992 (photos: Richard Blair).



Calendar of Events

Saturday 27 October

The story of St Peters Church Cooks River

Details on front page

Saturday 24 November

**Robert Parkinson talk on history of
Marrickville and Newtown picture shows**

Saturday 1 December

Annual Xmas Pot Luck Dinner

For the Sydney Architecture Festival, Council will host a forum on *Adaptive Re-use & Heritage Conservation* Saturday 27 October, 2-4 pm at Old Marrickville Town Hall, 96 Illawarra Road Marrickville. Speakers are **Michael Zanardo** (Shaping Affordable Housing), **James Phillips** (Restoration of Old Marrickville Town Hall and interwar architecture), **Dr Scott MacArthur** (Sustainable Futures from the Past: Adaptive Reuse and Conservation of Heritage Buildings) and **Shaun Carter** (The Antipodean Terrace). Q&A to follow.

Free, but booking required 9335 2173 or register online at <marrickvillelibraryaos.eventbrite.com.au>.

It is unclear if there is substance to media reports about remnants of Thomas Holt's '**The Warren**' castle being found near Cooks River. In late 2011 Ausgrid was laying cables in the area and MHS was advised of a 'potential heritage item' being found in Richards Avenue Marrickville. An archaeological dig revealed a well and two external walls but 'it would be covered over as it was of no significance. The archaeological report will be made available to MHS.

Draft LEP 2011 & DCP Amendments No. 1

Council advises draft amendments to the Marrickville Local Environment Plan (LEP) 2011 and the Development Control Plan (DCP) 2011 will be on public exhibition until 26 October, when submissions for comment will close. The LEP amendment includes several 'operational changes and a number of changes to zonings, floor space and height ratios applying to specific sites with the intent of improving development outcomes'. Several affected sites are specified - see *Inner West Courier* 27/9/12, p. 1 or council's website <www.marrickville.nsw.gov.au> or ring 9335 2222.

Vale Joyce Ryerson (23/9/1916-30/8/2012)

Members into family history would know of the **Ryerson Index**. In 1998 the idea of an index of death notices was suggested by John Graham of the Sydney Dead Persons Society. DPS member, Joyce Ryerson, of Turramurra, had for over 14 years been cutting out the death notices and keeping them in her laundry with the view to compiling a register of former pupils of her old school, SCEGGS in Darlinghurst. Volunteers worked three years to compile what became known as the Ryerson Index, which now has around 3.5 million entries from over 200 newspapers across Australia. The constantly updated index is an invaluable source for researchers. Our condolences to Joyce's family.

Diane McCarthy

Henson Park and Bumper Farrell

With funding of \$920,000 from the Australian Govt Community Infrastructure Grants program and in collaboration with heritage consultants, Henson Park recently underwent a comprehensive upgrade including refurbishment of the 1930s King George V Memorial Grandstand (including replacement of asbestos roofing) and park facilities. In a separate project funded by Council, 'works to retain and rectify structural failure of the brick wall along the northern boundary of the park were undertaken'.

Formerly the site of Thomas Daley's Standsure Brick Company brick pit (1886-1923), Marrickville Council bought the site and created Henson Park which became the home of the Newtown Rugby League *Bluebags*. In 1938 the park famously hosted some cycling events and the closing ceremony of the British Empire Games, which Shirley Doolan covered in 'World sport comes to Marrickville' in the Society's publication *Marrickville a past worth preserving* (2011).

Council honoured firstly the park's longtime caretaker in 2001 by naming the Charlie Meader Memorial Gates in Centennial Street; and recently a highly regarded Newtown Rugby League official with The Jack Chaseling Drive, although it's not clear where it is.

Perhaps it is time for Frank *Bumper* Farrell, the best known *Bluebags* player, to be somehow recognised at Henson Park. *Bumper* (subject of Larry Writer's 2011 biography and his talk to MHS in April) played a record 250 games over 16 seasons for the *Bluebags* captaining the side to its last premiership in 1943.* He represented NSW many times and Australia in four Tests. Retiring in 1951, he later served as club president. For many of his formative years he lived at 70 Premier Street Marrickville and attended Ferncourt School and St Brigid's Church where he got married. For nearly 40 years he was a colourful and famous policeman serving mostly in the Darlinghurst area.

Richard Blair

* The Newtown Jets beat the Balmain Ryde-Eastwood Tigers 22-18 in the grand final of the NSW Cup on 30 September for its first premiership since the Metropolitan Cup in 1997.

Listing for Marrickville Post Office

The Society welcomes the news that the James Barnet-designed 1891 **Marrickville Post Office** (now home to the Post Office Café; current post office is in rear half of building) is one of 15 post offices across the country to be added to the Commonwealth Heritage List. This will add heritage protection to this important building. The original Marrickville post office opened in 1865 in a bakery in Addison Road near Enmore Road.

(1984 photo by Chrys Meader from Marrickville Library Services Local Studies Images Database)



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