



# MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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## *Our Next Meeting*

Saturday, February 28, at 10.30am in the Amenities Room, Petersham Town Hall, Mr John Bennett, President of the Royal Australian Historical Society, will speak on the work of that Society and its biggest Bicentennial project - a national register of monuments and memorials.

## *Future Activities*

Friday, March 6, at 7.30pm in the Amenities Room, Petersham Town Hall, Mr Terry Hicks will talk about "The Rise and Fall of the Hicks' in Nineteenth Century Marrickville", using family history, shipping records, photographs and slides of the various buildings still standing in the Municipality which the Hicks family once called "home".

Saturday, March 28, the Society will visit Newington College for a tour of the historic stone buildings designed by Thomas Rowe last century and the newly built chapel. Meet at Petersham Town Hall at 10.30am.

Friday, April 3, ST BRIGID'S HERITAGE WEEK CONCERT.

This is another in the series of outstanding musical events arranged by this Society and the Heritage Week Committee would like to hear from anyone who can help publicise the concert - particularly in the media. Tickets \$5; \$3 (Pensioners and students); \$7 (Family ticket). Enquiries: Paula Gard, 569-9928.

Saturday, April 11, at 9.30am, a half-day bus trip to attend Heritage Week Activities outside our Municipality, cost \$2 per person. As this is a Heritage Week function, it is open to non-members and booking is essential. Enquiries: Anne Carolan, 406-4862.

## ***Book Notes***

"Hawkesbury Journey", by D. G. Bowd. Published by Library of Australian History, available at booksellers, about \$20.

This is a carefully researched and thoroughly referenced account of the ordinary farmers and settlers of the Hawkesbury Valley, and includes chapters on the Hawkesbury Agricultural College and the Richmond RAAF Base. It is a companion volume to the author's "Macquarie Country", which is concerned with prominent people and the broader sweep of history.

- Laurel Thomas

## ***Raffle***

Tickets to the Australian Opera productions of "La Cenerentola" (Sat, July 18) and "Il Trittico" (Sat, Aug. 22) have been donated to the Society for a raffle to be drawn during Heritage Week in April. Tickets will be available for sale at our meetings until then.

## ***Enmore High School Volunteers***

Each Wednesday morning between 10.30 and 12.30 a small group of retired people encourage students at Enmore High with their reading. The response of students and teachers confirms that this project is of great value. The Volunteer Centre is anxious to expand this program and would be delighted if members of the Society would like to participate. No teaching experience is necessary - just an interest in helping young people to learn. For further information please contact Jocelyn Black at 29-8194.

## ***New Members***

Margaret Wright; Mrs Olwen Hanney; Zena Sachs; Mrs Elsie Gilchrist.

We regret that the name of a new member from last month, Pam McGowan, was misspelt.

## ***How to join the Society***

It's only \$7 for individuals, \$10 for households and institutions, \$2 for pensioners and students. You will receive copies of our Newsletter and our Journal "Heritage". Your membership is good for twelve months from the date of joining. Contact Chrys Meader c/- Marrickville Library (560-9333 ext. 282). The editor would like to hear from members with contributions for the Newsletter. Contact Geoff Ostling at 568-3029.



## *Old Marrickville Town Hall under threat*

Built in 1878, this is now the oldest civic building still standing in the Municipality and is the oldest of the many Town Halls within the present Municipality. It has a Section 130 Order under the Heritage Act, is identified in the Marrickville Heritage Study and is Recorded by the National Trust.

The building was used by Marrickville Council from 1879 until 1922 when it was sold to the Department of Education for £3,050 and opened as Marrickville Boys' Junior Technical School in 1923. It later became part of Marrickville Public School and remained in use until the end of 1985.



The building has remained vacant ever since; it has been broken into many times and a lot of damage has been done. There have been two fires; the latest occurring on 27 December, 1986, which extensively damaged the rear weatherboard section of the building.

Although the Dept. of Education still owns the building, it no longer requires it, and new owners and a new use have to be found. It is unfortunate that the building has been allowed to remain vacant for so long without adequate security or proper surveillance. When vacated at the end of 1985, the Old Town Hall was in good condition; it is now practically derelict and the Department's proposal to board it up with corrugated iron hardly seems appropriate. The building should be repaired and adequately secured now - before it is too late.

The Society has applied to the Heritage Council for an Interim Conservation Order on the building and to the National Trust to upgrade its Recorded status to Classified.

We are seeking an on-site inspection with the Education Minister. We have also written to Marrickville Council seeking a meeting to discuss Council's support for the building to be used for a local history museum.

## Rose's Emporium Update

The illegal demolition of Rose's Emporium, a historic building on the corner of Parramatta Road and Railway St, Stanmore, on Sunday August 24 1986, has angered many members of this Society. Rose's Emporium was supposed to be protected by a Section 130 Conservation Order but the site is now no more than an ugly pile of rubble. The following paragraph was printed in The Glebe on January 21, 1987....

THE historic facade of famed Rose's Emporium at Stanmore could be rebuilt, restoration architect Clive Lucas told the Land and Environment Court. He was called as a witness for Planning and Environment Minister Bob Carr in one of the four cases involving Rose's illegal demolition now in the courts. The minister is asking the court to order that any development of the Parramatta Road site includes a reconstruction of the historic facade. Carr's department is involved in three cases, including a prosecution of Marrickville Council, the developer and the owners for destruction of the heritage law-protected building. Meanwhile the owners have launched their own suit against the developer in the Supreme Court, to force him to pay for the property.

There were further protests from local residents about the demolition of "San Remo", a house at 22 Croydon St, Stanmore, between Christmas and New Year - when most of the Society's executive were away on holidays. "San Remo" was a two storey house with a particularly elegant cedar staircase. From its architectural style it would appear to have been built in the 1830s but the area was not subdivided until the 1850s and the house is not recorded in "Sand's Directory" until 1889 when it was the home of Henry S. Rickards, Merchant. In 1915 it became the residence of Robert Duffield, piano importer and tenant of Rose's Emporium!

Marrickville Council gave permission for the site to be developed some months ago and there is no record of Heritage Council or any other preservation orders placed on the building. Five two storey town houses are being built on the site.

- Geoff Ostling

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## Help

Does anyone remember Mrs. P. Warren's buses that ran up Sydenham Road from Sydenham Station to Lewisham Station then onto Dulwich Hill? They were familiar red buses, mainly Chevrolets and mostly took people to work along Sydenham Road - the factories of Globe Woollen Mills, John Vicars and Australian Woollen Mills - and children to school. John Chappell, one of our new members, is interested in obtaining a photograph of the buses. If you can help please contact Chrys Meader at Marrickville Library.