



MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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Postal Address PO Box 415 Marrickville 2204

Our Next Meeting

Saturday, February 28, the Society will visit Newington College, Stanmore, built in the second half of the nineteenth century to the designs of architect Thomas Rowe. Members should meet at Petersham Town Hall at 10.30 or at Newington at 10.45.

At the conclusion of the tour, members are invited to visit the Newington Inn for liquid refreshments from the bar and the opportunity to see the historic roadside horsetrough (the subject of a recent petition to the Council) and the skeleton of the only hotel of the goldrush period in the Municipality to retain at least part of its original (1858) buildings. We hope the architect of the renovations will be available to describe the proposed changes to the buildings and to answer questions from members.

Heritage Week 1987

1. Concert NB There are no tickets this year, only programs, available at the door. Car transport is available for the elderly. Please ring Anne Carolan at 406-4862
2. Our bus trip on Saturday April 11. To book, please call Anne Carolan

Because of our involvement in Heritage Week activities there will be NO MEETING on the 4th Saturday of April (Anzac Day). The next meeting of the Society will be the AGM on May 23 at 10.30am.

Our Last Meeting...

On February 28 the Society's year began with an address by Mr John Bennett, President of the Royal Australian Historical Society. He said that, during the 1920's and 1930's, the RAHS had been considered radical amongst learned groups for its focus on Australian history in a climate that was still profoundly Imperial. He described the tremendous activity of those decades - the lectures, excursions, historical tours, debating and essay competitions, and museum collection, as well as the setting up of monuments and plaques. Since World War II, the emergence of local historical societies, the National Trust and a number of genealogical bodies had resulted in the RAHS vacating some of its roles, particularly that of agitating for preservation of buildings, and adopting a more national outlook.

He referred to the current financial difficulties of the RAHS, associated with the proprietorship of historic premises in central Sydney, which demanded an increasingly commercial approach to management. He saw a great need to foster a love of Australian history, especially amongst young people, and believed that the Bicentenary offered a golden opportunity to "sell" history to the nation. Of particular interest was the RAHS Bicentennial Project - the compilation of a national register of monuments and memorials. The participation of local bodies was needed for this to be successful, and forms were being distributed on which full details of location and description could be recorded. All the information so collected would be computerized.

Mr Bennett invited membership of the RAHS, which offered (for \$30 per individual or \$35 per "household pair" per year) delivery of 6 issues of the newsletter, 4 issues of the magazine, details of all activities and access to the Society's excellent historical library.

His address was warmly appreciated, and we look forward to assisting with the compilation of the register.

- Laurel Thomas

Heritage Update

Members will be pleased to know that the Minister for Heritage in the State Parliament, Mr Bob Carr, has placed Interim Conservation Order No 709 on two unique late Victorian villas, 47 to 51 Warren Road, Marrickville. This will protect these properties from 'development' for the next two years.

On March 2, our President, Bob Thompson, Vice-President Richard Cashman and Heritage Watch Chairman Bruce Welch met members of Marrickville Council to discuss the future of the original Marrickville Town Hall described in the last edition of the Newsletter. Several alternative proposals were discussed including archives storage and the setting up of a local history museum. Although nothing has been decided as yet, members of the Society were encouraged by the positive attitude and support from the Mayor, Ald. Barry Jones and the other aldermen. We will be watching for further developments.

The Hicks Family History

About 20 people (some in evening dress, as befitted the occasion) watched a splendid "lantern lecture" by Terry Hicks on the history of his family at our first evening meeting of the year.

Inspired in childhood by a photograph of a forebear called Henry Hicks (pictured) reputed to have been "very wealthy", Terry set out on an historical and genealogical journey which unearthed many fascinating stories.

Chief among these was the tale of John Hicks, a penniless farm labourer from Hawkhurst in Kent who immigrated to Australia in 1838.

Thomas, one of his many sons, came to Sydney to work for a produce merchant called Henry Denton - a bachelor with premises in what is now Market Street and property all over the inner city. All the property was eventually left to Thomas's children, the choicest plots going to Denton's namesake, Henry, a shrewd and enterprising businessman who developed the properties and expanded the estate.



Henry Hicks



Thomas and
Walter Hicks

Henry became "very wealthy" and moved to the Marrickville district, living first in one of two semi-detached houses in Stanmore, then in the grand house, "Humberstone" (now the Cavendish Street Child Care Centre) and then in the mansion, "Wahgunyah" (now altered beyond recognition behind the facade of some modern flats). But sad to say, as Terry discovered, it was not from Henry's loins that Terry's own branch of the family had sprung!

Over the cheese and wine we commiserated with Terry at the waywardness of fortune and wondered if any other members of the Society would like to share their family history with us?

- Laurel Thomas



HERITAGE WEEK CONCERT

A choral & organ concert in the old & new traditions of Marrickville
to celebrate Heritage Week

presented by

Marrickville Heritage Society

in association with

St Brigid's Catholic Church

Music under direction of David Malloy & Connie Cloran

Time: 8.15pm

Date: Friday, 3rd April 1987

**Venue: St Brigid's Church, cnr Marrickville & Livingstone Roads,
Marrickville**

The Programme will feature:

- St Brigid's Choir
- Tongan Choir
- A string ensemble
- Works for flute & organ, and trumpet & organ

Entrance by Programme available at door

Family \$7

Single \$5

Pensioners & Students \$3

Enquiries: 569.9928



Book Notes

Federation House, Australia's Own Style, by H. Fraser and R. Joyce. Published by Lansdowne Press, 127pp \$34.95

The book begins with a comprehensive account of the whole federation movement, and contains information on interiors and furnishings, restoration, garden improvement, and how to do alterations and additions in ways that will maintain its character. Well illustrated and contains many colour photos. Should prove useful for those with a Federation House.

- Bruce Welch

House Search, by Michal Bosworth, Published by the Trustees of the Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences, 1984, PO Box K346, Haymarket, 2000. 32pages, rec. price \$1.

This book tells how to go about researching the history of a house or a property.

It begins with the surprisingly difficult question "when was my house built?" and examines internal evidence such as architectural styles, building materials and types of fireplaces and then directs the researcher to the local council, to the rate books, planning zones and eventually to the indexes at the Registrar General's Dept for a Certificate of Title; to the Dept of Local Government and Lands (which has published "The Parish Map in Family History Research" available gratis); and to the State Archives at The Rocks.

Finding out "who lived in this house before me?" is even more difficult, unless you know how to go about finding out via the Sands Directories (1858 to 1933) telephone directories (after 1915) and the Index to Births, Deaths and Marriages.

The book concludes with seven pages of annotated bibliography titled "what else should I read?"

- Geoff Ostling

Raffle

Tickets to the Australian Opera matinee performances of Rossini's La Cenerentola (Cinderella) on Saturday July 18 and Il Trittico (three one act operas by Puccini) on Saturday, August 22 have been donated to the Society as prizes in a raffle. The usual price of each ticket is \$32. Raffle tickets cost only 50c and are available from Anne Carolan, phone 406-4862.

Riot at St. Lukes

Progress is underway for the restoration of St. Luke's Anglican Church in Enmore. In the 1950s, the interior of this picturesque 1882 gothic-revival building was painted an insipid pale blue which has been looking decidedly shabby in recent years. Now the sanctuary has once more become a riot of colour which reflects the beauty of the stained glass windows and the period when the church was built. Work is soon to begin on the painting of the nave of the church. Unfortunately, this is costing a great deal of money and an appeal has been launched for \$20,000 under the chairmanship of local businessman, Mr. Brian Sadler.

Heritage No. 3

Editor Greg Robertson and the authors of the articles should all be congratulated on a splendid effort. All members of the Society should now have received their 'free' copies and there has been an excellent response especially to Eve Sharpe's most informative article on Stead House (which recently won first prize in the Historic Gardens section of the Marrickville Municipality Garden Competition) and to Gary Nicholls' Fowler's Pottery 1837-1975. Geoff Ostling's article on The Great War is especially designed for students from within the Municipality who are studying the new Modern History syllabus for the Higher School Certificate in 1988. Further copies are available at a cost of \$4 from Chrys at Marrickville Library.

In order to continue publishing, the Society must sell a further 200 copies of Heritage 3. To help achieve this task, members are encouraged to sell their individual copies for \$4 and then obtain an additional copy through the Society by writing to PO Box 415, Marrickville or contacting Greg Robertson at 560-9528 or Geoff Ostling at 568-3029.

New Members

Gail Griffith, Mark Thompson and Mrs York.

How to subscribe to the Newsletter

It's only \$7 for individuals, \$10 for households and institutions, \$2 for pensioners and students. You will receive copies of our Newsletter (either posted or delivered to your door) and our journal HERITAGE. Your subscription is good for twelve months from the date of joining. Contact Chrys Meader at Marrickville Library (560-9333 ext 282) or write to PO Box 415, Marrickville, 2204. The editor would also like to hear from members with contributions to the Newsletter. Contact Geoff Ostling at 568-3029.