

MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY INC.

DULWICH HILL ENMORE LEWISHAM
ST PETERS SYDENHAM TEMPE

MARRICKVILLE PETERSHAM STANMORE
& PARTS OF CAMPERDOWN & NEWTOWN



Marrickville Heritage Society
invites members to
our 30th anniversary celebration at
Petersham Park rotunda (to be confirmed) near Station Street
Saturday 22 March from 10.30 am
Guest speaker: Andrew Tink AM to talk
on William Charles Wentworth who owned this land
Lunch to follow
RSVP 18 March (for catering)
Mary 9560 6409 or mary.oakenfull@bigpond.com

OUR NEXT MEETING

Alexander Brodie & Frances Maria Spark of Tempe House: talk by Dr Robert Brodie Spark
Saturday 22 February 10.15 for 10.30 am
Herb Greedy Hall 79 Petersham Rd Marrickville

Dr Robert Brodie Spark is a general practitioner with a special interest in skin cancer medicine. His grandfather was Alexander Francis Spark, who was the eldest son of Stanley Herbert Spark, who was the second son of Alexander Brodie and Frances Maria Spark. Robert was given the same middle name of Brodie in recognition of the family history.



Dr Spark's talk will cover aspects of the life of both Alexander Brodie and Frances Maria Spark. It will include Alexander's birthplace in Elgin, Scotland; his rise to prominence as one of the most successful businessmen in the colony in the 1820s and 1830s; and the story behind his marriage proposal to Frances. It will highlight the impressive family heritage of Frances and her life before she married Alexander Brodie in 1840. We will hear about the history of the Tempe estate from 1810, the building of Tempe House in the mid 1830s and its subsequent life after the Sparks left in 1859.

Maurice Felton's 1841 portrait of Frances Maria and Forbes Mudie's 1836 image of Alexander Brodie Spark (both © Art Gallery of NSW)



2014: The 20th Marrickville Medal

The Marrickville Medal for Conservation has been awarded annually since 1995. It celebrates built conservation works that contribute to the understanding and preservation of Marrickville's rich cultural and architectural heritage. The award was one of the first of its kind in NSW. The Urban Photography Competition this year has prize money of \$1000 (general category), \$150 (high school student), \$50 (primary school student). All entries close 14 March; the award ceremony will be on 14 May. Submission forms and details of previous Medal winners are online at marrickville.nsw.gov.au where details can also be found for the Special Achievement Award.

Heritage Watch

Following a solid campaign by the newly-formed Friends of Fatima Island to save **Fatima Island**, a resolution was passed at the 3 December Marrickville Council meeting that: 1) Fatima Island be included in the forthcoming review of the Biodiversity Action Plan 2011-15; 2) Council recognises that shared funding opportunities proceed and that the initial Stage 1 Erosion Assessment and Remediation Feasibility Study for the island are unlikely; 3) Council officers investigate the potential of Fatima Island as a regionally significant ecological and/or historical site to assist with eligibility for funding opportunities; 4) Council proceed with a budget assessment of \$25,000 to complete the Stage 1 study for Fatima Island which includes an assessment of the likely costs of short term and long term remediation measures.

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Thieves struck recently at **Tempe House** stealing three of the four copper downpipes on the northern and eastern sides (hidden from view of the Wolli Creek apartments). In the light of this and the Society's awareness of the natural wear and tear that occurs with all buildings, the Society wrote to the owners Australand advocating they urgently investigate and ascertain what other repair works are required. Australand has advised that the downpipes have been replaced and other work is being undertaken.

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A new building is being erected on the north-east corner of the intersection of **Marrickville and Wardell Roads, Marrickville**. For the record the family of entertainers, Helen de Paul, husband Buster Noble and children, including Patsy Ann (later known as Trisha), lived here in the 1950s. Before and after that time it was a shop, although the building was rather ordinary.

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Buildings don't get much uglier than this recently-completed boarding house at **224 and 224a Wardell Road Dulwich Hill** just south of Dulwich Hill station. The DA was approved by the Land & Development Court in October 2012, having been previously rejected by Marrickville Council on several grounds.

One positive outcome resulting from this is Council's decision to establish an **Architectural Excellence Panel** to review and make recommendations on the architectural merit of future development proposals. The panel is likely to comprise experienced architects as well as design experts at Council. Well done Council! (photo © savingthetrees website)



What's wrong with this building? Nothing, it might seem, but **27 George Street Marrickville** is subject of a Development Application which went before Council on 10 December for demolition along with flats behind at 32 Enfield Street to make way for a substantial block of units. I addressed that meeting advocating refusal of the DA as did a local resident who spoke against the scale and bulk of the proposed new development. The DA was approved with conditions, which are not yet known. The DA was also subject to an appeal before the Land & Environment Court (hearing date unknown) which meant councillors met 'behind closed doors' and were unable to discuss the DA. It is not known if that matter will still proceed.

An earlier DA (not notified to the Society) had been submitted whereby some of the building's fabric was to be retained. The developer, who addressed the December council meeting, advised three concerned residents and me after the lockout that when the initial DA was declined, an (unnamed) council officer advised him to lodge another DA and apply for *total* demolition of 27 George Street. Given the embargo relating to this DA, this claim could not be checked with council. If the developer's claim is true – and we will probably never know – it rather undermines one's faith in Council's regard for heritage.

Built in the 1880s by James Gould (a one-time Mayor of Marrickville and 18 years an alderman) and called *Mandalong*, the house was later occupied by Thomas Nesbitt, Town Clerk of Sydney and was also owned by eminent pathologist Reginald Maney-Lake. The Salvation Army bought the property in 1921 and for most of the 20th century it served as a children's home or hostel known as *The Fold* and later *Sunset Lodge*.

But history and once meritorious architecture seem to have been hardly considered in this matter and like so many other once local grand residences, this one has become expendable. Indeed, George Street Marrickville was once one of the outstanding streets of the inner west of Sydney, but is *that* no longer.

Richard Blair

The Society farewells **Ben Arnfield** who has been the ever-obliging archivist at Council Archival Reference Centre for the past three years. Best of luck, Ben, in your future endeavours.

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We salute MHS member **Bob York**, who must be one of the *Rabbitohs'* most recognizable supporters as depicted in recent TV promotional rugby league ads.

An arch, a badge and a mystery cricketer



This original hallway (possibly cedar) arch from a period house in the Abergeldie Estate, Dulwich Hill is in quite good condition. Dimensions: 142.5 x 89 cm. Free to the first taker, contact Roger on 0401 422 846 or <roger_g@optusnet.com.au> (photo: Roger G).



Sydney Day Nursery was formed in 1905. Marrickville Day Nursery (251 Illawarra Road) opened in 1944 and was the municipality's first long-day child care centre. This badge was sold in a public appeal. Effie (who has had strong associations with the centre) is after a badge with the view to donating it to the SDN archive. Contact 9449 7611. (photo: unknown online source)

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Joan Francis advised that the December 2013 *Descent* (quarterly journal of the Society of Australian Genealogists) carried this photo of an unidentified cricketer. Reverse side of the photo shows Artist-Photographer AH Lamartiniere of 320 George Street, Sydney; Flossie / 1879 / Harnleigh / Marrickville. Photo is from the Commins family album, but there is no known connection between this family and a house called 'Harnleigh'. Cricket historian Richard Cashman is certain the bowler is not Fred *Demon* Spofforth as has been mooted. The Harnett family owned Harnleigh in Roach Street, Marrickville in the 1870s. If you can help, email Ralph Hawkins <archives@sag.org.au> or write to him c/- SAG, 120 Kent Street, Sydney 2000.



Tempe Birdos

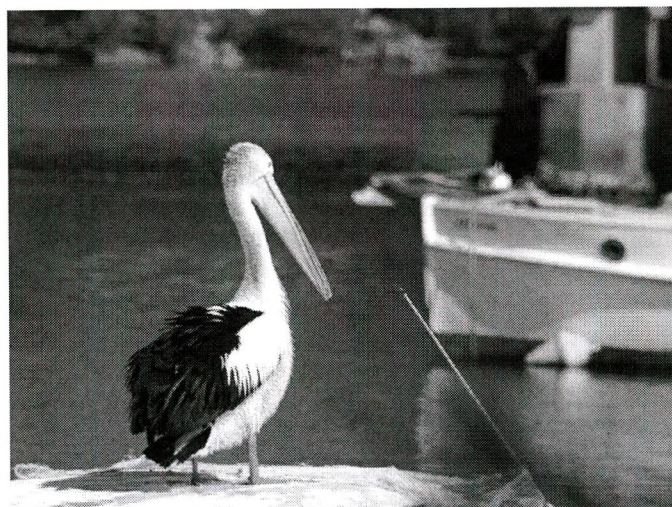
Tempe Birdos is a volunteer bird watching group that came together in November 2011 and since then has met monthly for an early morning bird walk and survey at the Tempe Ponds and Tempe Reserve sites. The members are building our local biodiversity knowledge, creating friendships and contributing the data we collect to a national biodiversity database – the Atlas of Living Australia. The group, made up of locals with different levels of knowledge and experience, is supported by Marrickville Council through supervision and a Groundwork grassroots sustainability grant.

Tempe Ponds and Reserve were terribly degraded environments, and Marrickville Council has extensively remediated them in the past 15 years. The Tempe Ponds site is part of the former Tempe Tip that was very successfully remediated by Council in 2004, as a wetland (not without some controversy as those with long memories will attest). The wetlands comprise three sedimentation ponds that treat storm-water, surrounded by plantings of a diverse range of species to create several local vegetation communities that now make it an important native wildlife haven. Tempe Reserve is the section of the Cooks River foreshore that was remediated after the Airport Railway tunnel works site was returned to Marrickville Council.

Our recent guest twitcher, Marrickville Mayor Jo Haylen, noted that Tempe Birdos have now identified over 80 species of birds at these two sites, only five of which were non-native species! In 2006 the jury of the Marrickville Medal for Conservation awarded a Highly Commended citation to the Tempe Lands Remediation project. We may speculate that had the judges been able to know how successful the project would turn out to be, they would have given a significantly higher award.

Tempe Birdos meet on the second Saturday of the month, and new volunteers are always welcome, no experience necessary! For more information, contact Council on <biocord@marrickville.nsw.gov.au> or ring 9335 2222.

Scott MacArthur



Australian Pelican (*Pelicanus conspicillatus*) on Cooks River near the former Cooks River Motor Boat Club (photo: Scott MacArthur)

Calendar of Events

Saturday 22 February

Alexander Brodie & Frances Maria Spark of Tempe House: talk by Robert Brodie Spark
See front page

Saturday 22 March

MHS 30th anniversary celebration
See front page

Saturday 26 April

History of flooding in Marrickville Valley and Cooks River

Saturday 24 May

Addison Road (former) Army Camp tour

Invitation for Morning Tea

StirrUP Art Gallery, Addison Road Centre
142 Addison Road Marrickville
Wednesday 26 February 10 am - 12 noon
From Army Barracks to Community Centre
Free morning tea to share stories about
Addison Road's 100-year history
www.arcco.org.au or 9569 7633

Marrickville History Services presents:

Walking tour of Stanmore

Saturday 15 March 11 am (includes short lunch break)
Meet outside Stanmore Railway Station north side
Bookings essential: Ring 9335 2167; text 0401 957 409;
email: aleem.aleemullah@marrickville.nsw.gov.au; or
book online at: <marrickvillelibrary.eventbrite.com.au>.

The tour traces Stanmore's development from 1793 when land was granted to Lieutenant-Governor George Johnston. Discover how the area's name changed from Kingston to Stanmore; view the grand estates and their subdivisions; learn about Stanmore's diverse array of notable houses and some of its most celebrated residents, including Olympic Gold Medallist Sarah 'Fanny' Durack, Test cricketer Sid Barnes, flautist Neville Amadio and Mum Shirl of the Arradjjarri tribe.

Congratulations to:

MHS member **Michael Smee** who received an OAM on Australia Day for 'service to education, and to the community'. Michael was Headmaster of Newington College 1993-2003 but the list of his achievements is most extensive.

Andrew Tink who received an AM 'for significant service to the Parliament of New South Wales, to local history and to the law'. Andrew addressed MHS in early 2013 on Lord Sydney and will be guest speaker at our 30th anniversary celebration in March.

Parramatta & District Historical Society, whose centenary was celebrated on 4 December 2013. It is the second oldest historical society in NSW, after the RAHS.

President Geoff 9568 3029
Treasurer Diane 9588 4930
Heritage Watch Scott 0416 152 501
Newsletter Editor Richard 9557 3823

Summer Trivia Answers

1/ At the Stanmore Road entrance to All Saints Church Petersham is a plaque which reads: 'To the glory of God and in loving memory of Frederic Walter Wippell. The gates were erected by his widow and family 1915.'

An entry in the January 1914 All Saints Parish Paper indicates: 'At the desire of her late husband Mrs. Wippell has made a gift of £100 to the Rector and Wardens for some necessary improvement or addition to the Church, at the same time expressing the wish that the object chosen should "take such form as might perpetuate the memory of her late dear husband" . . . She decided upon the erection of handsome iron gates at the front entrance to the Church grounds with stone pillars, and a section of the brick and iron fence on either side of the gates in Stanmore-road to correspond with the general design of the fence which it was proposed to erect as a Jubilee Memorial.'

The fence was erected but is no longer there. **Frederic Wippell** died aged 56 on 2 September 1913 at Lewisham Hospital. He was married to Maria Georgina Greenhill (who died in 1935 at Chatswood) and they had a son Cyril John Wippell (1895-1981). Sands Directories (1905 & 1910) reveal Frederic was bank manager at the Bank of Australasia, on the corner of Crystal Street and Stanmore Road Petersham, where he probably also lived with his family. The former bank is now a backpackers' lodge.

2/ This pictured drain cover for **G Walker, Plumber, of Stanmore Road Petersham**, belongs to a Newtown house which dates from c. 1901. Sands Directories reveal that from 1883 until 1910 George Walker owned the property and operated as a plumber at 352 (or 354) Stanmore Road Petersham, next door to Stanmore Fire Station (system of numbering has since changed). Perhaps there are other local Walker drain covers.

3/ Best known of these 'memorials' is the **drinking fountain in Stanmore Reserve, Douglas Street, Stanmore**. It predates the original Stanmore library (1957) and is near the current library. The plaque on the fountain says: 'Presented to the residents of Stanmore by J Hargraves, Salisbury Hotel, 1949'. A philanthropic act from a teetotal publican

perhaps! See also entry in May 1993 MHS newsletter.

Research assistance from: Noel Cragg, archivist, All Saints Church Petersham re (1); Diane McCarthy re (1) & (2); Ben Arnfield, Council archivist re (2). Photos by R Blair. Noel advises a disc with many years of early All Saints Petersham parish chronicles has been donated to Marrickville Library.

Richard Blair

