

MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY INC.

DULWICH HILL ENMORE LEWISHAM
ST PETERS SYDENHAM TEMPE

MARRICKVILLE PETERSHAM STANMORE
& PARTS OF CAMPERDOWN & NEWTOWN



Our May Meeting

Sydney Bus Museum, Leichhardt

Saturday 27 May 9.45 for 10 am sharp

Meet Petersham Town Hall where a vintage bus will take us to the bus museum at 25 Derbyshire Street, Leichhardt. Bus will return members to Petersham. Cost \$15 includes pickup and return, tour of museum and a double decker bus ride. Attendees may go directly to museum (arrive by c. 10.10 am), but cost will be the same. Bookings: Mary <mary.oakenfull@bigpond.com> or ring 0407 487 157.

The Sydney Bus Museum was originally called the Bus & Truck Museum and was founded in 1986. It was operated by the Historic Commercial Vehicle Association in the former Tempe tram depot on Princes Highway until its closure in 2010. MHS visited the museum on a few occasions.

The museum was relocated to Leichhardt and opened to the public in mid-2016 operating from the over 100-year-old Leichhardt Tramshed. The new museum houses an extensive collection of vintage buses and currently has an exhibition of buses during World War II. The museum is entirely run by volunteers.



Ruggles 1924 bus operated by the Riley Brothers on the Central Coast for 21 years until withdrawn in 1946; it was still in use in the 1970s. It's the oldest bus in the museum
(© Sydney Bus Museum website)

Welcome to new members

Noel Irving, Dulwich Hill; Addison Road Community Centre, Trish Flaherty, Justine Langford, all of Marrickville; Mary Simpson, Tempe; Mary Foley, Earlwood; Doug Benson & Irene Ladds, Hurlstone Park; John Ward, Summer Hill; Noel Elliot, Sutherland; John Derum, Sydney.

Scott MacArthur, Noel Elliot and Iain Carolin at MHS meeting 22 April (photo: Richard Blair)
Iain's report on Noel's talk inside.

Annual General Meeting

Saturday 24 June 10.15 for 10.30 am start

Herb Greedy Hall, 79 Petersham Rd Marrickville

Members are invited to the Society's 33rd AGM when annual reports will be presented. All committee positions will be declared vacant. Nominations for president, two vice presidents, treasurer, secretary, assistant secretary and up to six committee positions may be made in advance or on the day. Secretary Mary (0407 487 157) can field queries re joining the committee.

Members must have paid their 2017-18 membership fees to stand for office or vote if required. Fees can be paid beforehand or on the day (see below). Stay afterwards and mingle with fellow members over our light lunch.

MHS 2017-18 annual fees due

If your fees are due a blue renewal slip accompanies this newsletter. Please return intact with a cheque or money order made out to Marrickville Heritage Society (address below), unless you're paying by direct deposit (see under). You may renew at AGM. Fees remain: concession \$12, individual/joint concession \$20, household/organisation \$28. You may pay for more than one year. If you would like to be a sponsor for our next journal (*Heritage 15*) you are welcome to contribute. If you have a query ring Treasurer Diane on 9588 4930.

Direct deposit to MHS bank account details:

Bank name: Sydney Credit Union (BSB 802 084)

Account name: Marrickville Heritage Society

Account Number: 85663

Reference: 'Fees' + [your surname/s and initials]



Our March meeting: Saturday 25 March Port Hacking cruise – in the wake of Bass and Flinders

Setting off from Gunnamatta Bay, just near Cronulla railway station, our mission was to 'discover in three hours what Bass and Flinders discovered in three days'. First explored and documented in 1796 by Bass and Flinders, today the Hacking River, Port Hacking and Bate Bay are fringed by expensive waterfront properties and dotted with luxury watercraft. Bass and Flinders set off in the *Tom Thumb II*, a small 8ft long rowing boat, and spent three days exploring and mapping Port Hacking.

We relaxed on board the MV *Tom Thumb III*, a comfortable and beautifully maintained 49ft long ferry built in 1945. The first *Tom Thumb* had travelled with George Bass from England on board the *Reliant* in 1795.

We cruised on the calm waters of Port Hacking and explored the upper reaches of the Hacking River, one of Sydney's most unspoiled waterways. The whole of the southern shoreline is bordered by the Royal National Park. Our captain provided outstanding commentary throughout our journey, pointing out Aboriginal sites, historic landmarks and buildings surviving from the early settlement of this area. The many bays and inlets of the waterways led to stories about the early explorers of the district, historic settlements, deer farming, the state's first fish hatchery and more.

Our creature comforts were attended by our deck-hand, who served us morning tea shortly after setting off, then sandwiches and fruit salad for lunch, and manned the on board bar.

So close to our own area, yet not visited before by most of us, this was an interesting and enjoyable insight into a place that has retained much of its wildness, due to the waterways and the National Park, despite the obvious urban growth that is attracted to any naturally beautiful area.

Our thanks to the Cronulla Ferries team for enabling our visit, and to Werner, our captain, and Peter, our deckhand, for their knowledge and hospitality.

Lorraine Beach

Our April meeting: Saturday 22 April Royal Botanic Garden, Sydney with Noel Elliot

Hortus conclusus is a Latin term meaning 'enclosed garden'. All gardens by definition are enclosed or bounded spaces. Sydney's Royal Botanic Garden was founded on 13 June 1816 by Governor Lachlan Macquarie with the help of Charles Fraser, the first appointed Colonial Botanist. Although 200 years old it hardly compares with say, the Utrecht Botanic Gardens in the Netherlands, established in 1639.

Before 1788 the site of Royal Botanic Garden was used by the Cadigal Aborigines for ceremonies and was known as Woccanmagully. The European settlers of the First Fleet, despite the strange landscape, established a small farm in the area of the garden near a creek. This first attempt at farming was not a success due to the poor quality of the soil, lack of proper tools and inferior agricultural knowledge. Corn crops,



Masonic Hotel, Petersham 1930

(Source: The Noel Bell Ridley Smith Heritage Impact Statement, © Tooth & Co. files, Noel Butlin Archives, ANU)

however, were a success. The land underwent continued cultivation and had it not been a failure as a farm there may never have been a botanic garden here. From 1860 to 1883 there was a small zoo on the site starting with an aviary, progressing to caged animals; this zoo was relocated to Moore Park.

The Garden gradually expanded to its present 30 hectares with the reclaiming of land behind the Farm Cove seawall, built 1848-78. Progress was delayed by events such as the 1850s gold rush. After the Garden Palace was destroyed by fire in 1882, a fountain and a statue of Cupid were integrated into a Palace Garden, marking the site of the Garden Palace dome.

One of the longest serving directors of the Garden was Charles Moore (1820-1905). He held the position for 48 years from 1848 and developed the Gardens much as we see them today, especially the Palm Grove, which has the largest number of palm species in the world. Allan Cunningham, appointed as King's Botanist in 1816, made extensive botanic finds and discoveries in Australia – his remains were interred in an obelisk in the Garden in 1901.

For years fruit bats caused much damage, especially to the Palm Grove, until being recently driven off by amplified noise. A couple of foxes take care of the rodents. The Garden, one of Australia's scientific institutions, has a herbarium (dating from 1853) and several themed gardens, and is home to many threatened rare and indigenous plants and trees.

Thanks to Noel Elliot (ably assisted by Graham) for sharing his passion for the Royal Botanic Garden through his collection of images and photographs.

Iain Carolin

Heritage Watch

Huntsbury Hotel, Petersham

Huntsbury Hotel, formerly the Masonic Hotel, on the corner of New Canterbury Road and Hunter Street, was constructed in 1884 with substantial alterations made to the building in 1926. It is listed as a local heritage item under the Marrickville LEP. The listing notes that the building 'is of historical significance as an original late Victorian period hotel developed on the 1882 "Lewisham Estate" subdivision, substantially altered in 1926 by Tooth & Co architect's office after its purchase by Tooth & Co. The hotel is evocative of changing hotel requirements in the early 20th century as hotels were acquired by major breweries. The Huntsbury Hotel is of aesthetic significance as a Victorian period hotel with substantial 1926 alterations and a representative example of the Interwar Free Classical style.'

The listing further notes that: 'There may be only two hotels in the greater Sydney region that are older and larger than the Huntsbury Hotel (the Palace Hotel Complex at 730-742 George Street, Haymarket; and the Carrington Hotel, Katoomba Street, Katoomba).'

The Hotel is a landmark on New Canterbury Road, and is close to two important Conservation Areas (the Lewisham Estate and the Petersham Retail Precinct) and **any alteration to the building should respect the scale and character of the surrounding heritage streetscapes and neighbourhoods.**

However, the building is apparently in poor structural condition, and retains no original or early hotel fittings on the ground floor. On the upper storeys, original Victorian fittings remain, including floors, walls, skirting, doors and architraves and original plaster work (arch consoles and decorative profiles, cornices, ceiling roses, and some lath and plaster ceilings). The timber stair and balustrade between the first and second floors are original, though in only fair condition. There are several original hearths and mantelpieces (using carved timber and different colours of marble) with original hearth tiles and cast iron fire boxes.

Unfortunately, the proposed development of the site requires the demolition of the existing building interiors (retaining the facades only), and extending and converting it into a 5 to 6 storey mixed use development consisting of a hotel use on the ground floor and 34 dwellings on the upper floors with basement car parking.

The proposal does not comply with many of Council's planning codes, most particularly in the overall building height and floor space ratio, which provide for the large number of units that are squeezed onto the site. The developer attempts to justify this non-compliant overdevelopment by claiming that it is required to retain the viability of the hotel and repair the facades of the heritage building. However, the proposed additional floors are overbearing and out of character with the original facades, and out of scale with the surrounding heritage precincts.

Conclusion: The Society does not believe that such a non-compliant overdevelopment is appropriate for this significant building, and Council should not approve it in its current form.

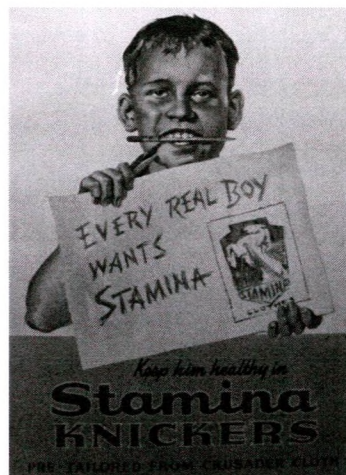
Scott MacArthur

Autumn Trivia Answer

FOR 'MEN OF STAMINA'

An advertiser par excellence, Australian company Stamina Clothing specialised in trousers for men and boys, and was very popular in the 1950s. They directly addressed a children's market and younger men through the athletic yet relaxed image they promoted. With most artwork by prominent commercial artist Walter Jardine, Stamina advertised widely in newspapers, through posters and collectors cards, and in books. The 'Men of Stamina' series—celebrating men of vision and achievement—was a key part of their advertising. They used 'crusader cloth', woollen cloth produced by their parent company, the Australian Woollen Mills. Stamina Clothing was founded by First World War veteran Eric Hammil Gifford, who aimed to make men's clothes comfortable to wear.

The above history and ad below for Stamina knickers were part of the display at the Australian National Library's Australian advertising exhibition held earlier this year. Stamina was produced at the Australian Woollen Mills (AWM), which operated in Sydenham and Livingstone Roads, Marrickville from 1908 on land once known as McShane's Paddock. Business there boomed after World War I with around 900 employees in the 1930s.



The mill merged with Vicars Mill in 1965, closing in the early 1970s. All AWM buildings were demolished. The site was redeveloped as Wilkins High School for a few years; Wilkins Public School opened in 1982 and still flourishes.

AWM also produced Crusader cloth whose logo was a mounted knight. Crusader

Kindergarten in Malakoff Street Marrickville opened in 1945 to cater for children of mill employees but other kids could later be enrolled. Today it is called Crusader Preschool.

Several members correctly identified the Stamina brand: David Blair, Peter Chessell, Mary Cleghorn, Wayne Le Clos, Diane McCarthy, Geoff Ostling, Ken Swinbourne and Bob York. Some had a parent who had worked in the mill, while others recalled the Men of Stamina cards, which were often given out with purchases. Megan Hicks enlightened us with: 'I wondered whether the significance of the Stamina trousers ad was that the commercial artist who drew the ad, Walter Jardine, was born in Macdonaldtown. He not only drew the advertisements for Stamina trousers but also the collectors cards'. An oral history in *Heritage 9* (1995, pp. 13-18), 'A hard life . . . but a happy one' had former member, the late Joyce Allen, speaking to Caroline Plim. Joyce and her husband Arthur worked at the AWM for years from the 1940s. Joyce gave vivid descriptions of working in the mill.

As a child I saw the AWM daily and what forbidding looking buildings they were. I, too, wore Stamina trousers and, along with two of my siblings, Tony and Patricia, graduated from Crusader Kindergarten.

Richard Blair

Calendar of MHS events

Sunday 21 May 10 am - noon

Anyone for croquet?

Details below

Saturday 27 May

Sydney Bus Museum, Leichhardt

Details on front page

Saturday 24 June

Annual General Meeting

Details on front page

Anyone for croquet? Marrickville Croquet Club (in Marrickville Park: Lawson Avenue off Frazer Street Marrickville) invites MHS members for a spot of croquet on **Sunday 21 May** from 10 am to noon. Morning tea provided courtesy of MHS committee. For more details and bookings ring Mary 0407 487 157 or email <mary.oakenfull@bigpond.com>.

Tempe House Open Day: Saturday 6 May 10 am-4 pm

National Trust Heritage Festival

Marrickville Library & History Services talks

Vanessa Berry: St Peters - Post-industrial playground
Wednesday 10 May 6.30-8 pm

St Peters Library, Unwins Bridge Road, Sydenham

Ron Ringer: If only buildings could talk

Wednesday 17 May 6.30-8 pm

Dulwich Hill Library, 362 New Canterbury Road

Booking required: Ring 9335 2173 during Marrickville Library hours OR <www.marrickville.nsw.gov.au/en/library/events-at-the-library/events-calendar>.

All Council-run Heritage Festival walks are booked out.

A curator's tour of the Nicholson Museum

For International Museum Day, Dr Jamie Fraser leads a free curator's tour of the Nicholson Museum, Australia's oldest university museum with the largest collection of antiquities in the Southern Hemisphere. The museum was founded in 1860 and today comprises nearly 30,000 artefacts from Egypt, Greece, Italy, Cyprus and the Near East.

Thursday 18 May 3-4 pm at Nicholson Museum, Quadrangle A14, University of Sydney

Bookings essential: Ring 9351 2812 (weekdays) or email <nicholson.museum@sydney.edu.au>

Legal deposit of this newsletter at the NLA is now done by submitting in PDF format. Will SLNSW follow suit?

'Stanmore Mansions' & 'The New Town'

These two new **Walking Tours** by Mark Matheson incorporate material from newly-uncovered municipal records and the newly-accessible newspaper archives.

Stanmore Mansions on May 6 & 13 at 10am
The New Town on May 20 & 27 at 10am
\$10 (\$6 concession). More details and bookings, Mark Matheson on 0409 617 778.



50 years since

residents saved

Nannygoat Hill



In 1967, Earlwood residents won the fight to save Nanny Goat Hill from being levelled to provide fill for a new Sydney Airport runway. A YouTube clip lasting about five minutes shows TV journalist Frank Bennett's report from the ABC's *This Day Tonight* documenting this early environmental action that predates the well known and well-publicized Kelly's Bush, Hunters Hill action at the start of the Green Bans of the 1970s.

The Wolli Creek Preservation Society is celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Battle for Nanny Goat Hill on **Sunday 21 May 1.30-4 pm** at Turrella Reserve, Wolli Creek Valley, Earlwood at the base of Nanny Goat Hill. Enter off Finlays Avenue Earlwood or Henderson Street Turrella.

The event is free and everyone is welcome. Guided walks start at 1 pm but bookings are required: <info@wollicreek.org.au>. Check the WCPS website <www.wollicreek.org.au> for further details including access and parking.

Rookwood turns 150

From Rookwood website: 'Rookwood Necropolis was established in 1867 and is one of the largest burial grounds in the world, covering an area of 286 hectares. With artefacts, structures and landscapes scattered throughout its development, Rookwood Necropolis reflects the changing nature of Australia's religious, social and cultural life over the last 150 years.'

Such is its size that with land acquisition it should continue to serve Sydney for many decades to come.

In the wake of Anzac Day would you believe that **Dame Vera Lynn CH DBE OStJ** is still alive and turned 100 on 20 March 2017! Famously known as the 'Forces' Sweetheart' in World War II, she became Britain's oldest recording artist when, aged 92, she topped the UK Album charts. Apart from singing she has devoted much energy to charitable works and in 2000 was voted the Briton who best exemplified the spirit of the 20th century (Source: Wikipedia).

President Scott 0416 152 501

Heritage Watch Scott 0416 152 501

Treasurer Diane 9588 4930

Newsletter Richard 9557 3823