

MARRICKVILLE

HERITAGE SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



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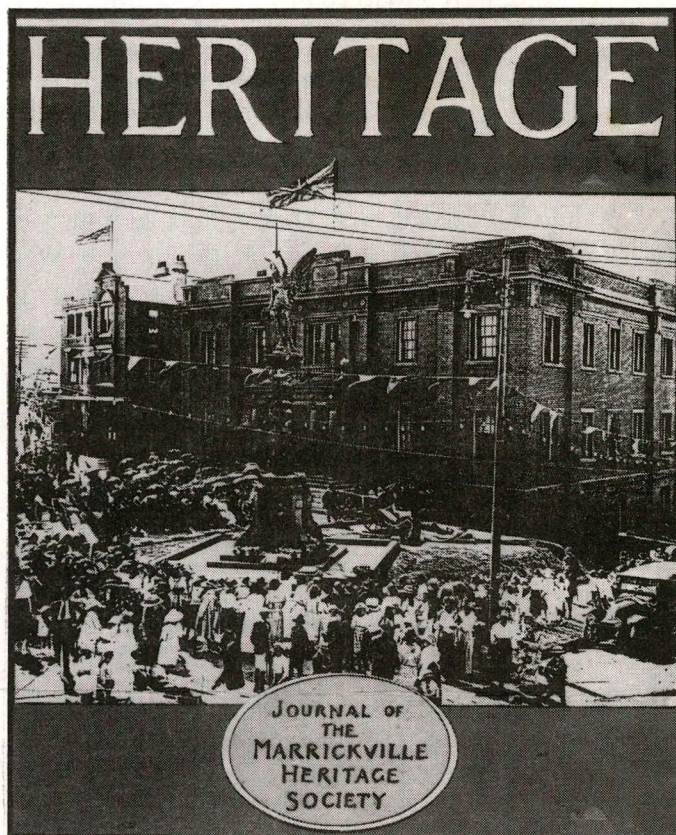
Our Journal

The latest issue of our journal will soon be delivered to members. Articles in the journal are the result of much thorough - and time-consuming - research by local historians and Society members. Much of the research is from primary sources. The journal articles deal with personalities and places from most of the areas in our municipality.

Three generations of a St Peters family are recounted in an oral-history prepared by Anne Carolan. Anne also 'introduces Mr Chalder', the man who named Marrickville, about whom little was previously known.

Other articles include the story of the draining of the Sydenham swamplands, by our local history librarian, Chrys Meader; Barbara Le Maistre describes the changes in St Peters and Tempe and Richard Cashman has written about Fanny Durack.

The journal is a valuable resource; Issue No. 1 sold out quickly. Issues 2 (\$5) and 3 (\$4) are available at Society meetings. Further copies of the latest - double-size - issue will be available at a cost of \$7 and we hope every member will endeavour to sell at least one other copy. It will be a volume that people with an interest in Marrickville will want to keep.



Wolli Creek

At our meeting on May 6 Gavin Gatenby of the Wolli Creek Preservation Society talked of the Wolli Creek Valley and how it has evolved over the last 200 years. He told of the Aborigines' 'burning-off' producing the illusory 'green pastures' sighted by Banks in 1770; of timber-getting in the early days of white settlement; of grazing of sheep and pigs and of stone-quarrying in the 1820s; and from 1900 on, of urbanization when rows of brick cottages appeared on all usable land encroaching on the stream.

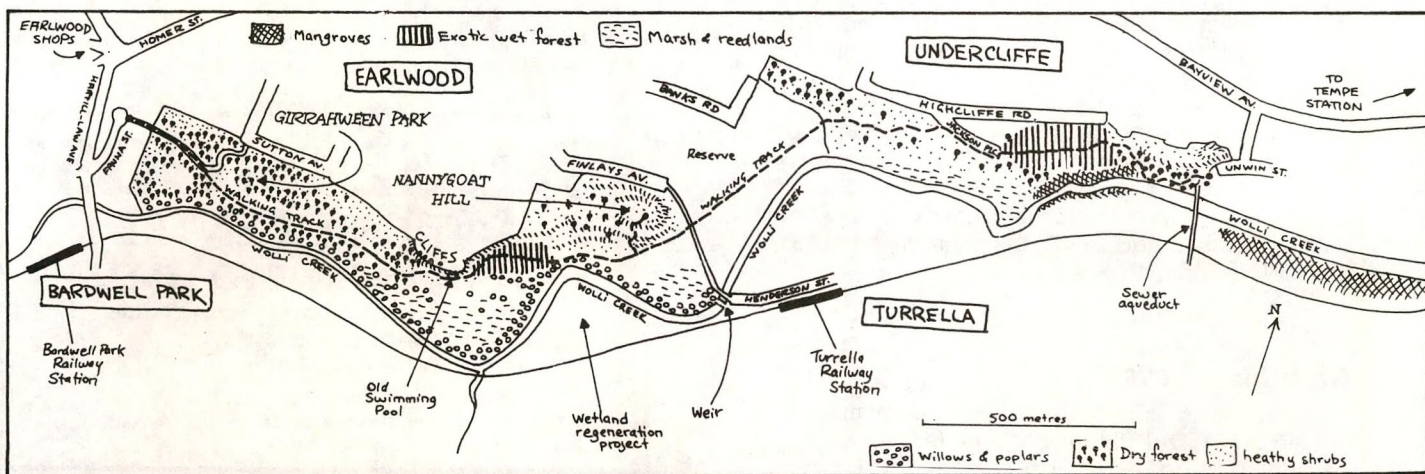
Gavin hopes that the 'unusable land' will form the nucleus of a proposed State Park when the Government removes the Highway Reservation from the Valley. Natural vegetation - harbouring animals and birds - remains on cliff-faces and the floodplain. Although previous landscape architects have dammed the river and planted

willows to create 'English-style' parks with lawns and playing-fields, the natural vegetation is regenerating.

We will be able to see all this on Saturday May 28 when Gavin Gatenby will lead a walk through the Valley.

Meet in the car park on the west side of Tempe Railway Station at 10am. The leisurely 4km walk will be through rough scrub and bush with no formally maintained track. Walkers are advised to wear sturdy walking shoes, joggers or boots and sensible clothing; bring your binoculars (to see the bird life). It will take four hours including a half-hour break for lunch (bring a cut lunch) and then you can catch the train back (about 2pm) from Bardwell Park.

If there is some doubt about the weather on Saturday morning (the walk will continue if it is merely sprinkling) please ring Eve Sharpe (516 2685) after 8am.



Bicentennial Concert

In spite of almost blinding rain, some 350 people braved the elements to attend the Society's long-awaited Bicentennial Heritage Concert of secular and sacred music at St Brigid's Church, Marrickville on Friday 29th April.

The program concentrated on some of the unique features of our municipality. First, there were items performed or composed by local residents, including Connie Cloran's 'Here God Dwells among His People', Romano Crivici's 'Improvisations' and 'Give Us Wings of Faith' by Toby Cole, a student at Newington College. The Choir and the Brass Consort of Newington and their conductors, Elizabeth Swain and David Craddock should be congratulated on a magnificent performance.

The multicultural nature of our municipality was illustrated by the St Brigid's Tongan Choir and the music of India with Sardool Singh playing the sarode. Beryl Hardy (Brownlee), a long time resident of the district and a principal of the Australian Opera sang an aria by Gounod.

Hugh Jones, one of Australia's most famous builders of early musical instruments, lives and works in our municipality. Another highlight of the concert was the music of Scarlatti and Bartok played on one of Hugh's beautiful harpsichords by Colin Forbes.

But lest it be thought that the program was too 'highbrow' for the average Marrickville resident, the program also includes some lighthearted English folk songs played on handbells by the girls of Danebank Anglican School, Hurstville and the reciting of the humorous story of 'The Old Mass Shandrydan' by James Dibble, an 'old boy' of St Brigid's choir who returned to Marrickville to comper the concert.

The Society would like to thank Connie Cloran (Musical Director at St Brigid's) and all the performers, Mrs Jessop for the flowers which decorated the church, the ladies of St Brigid's who prepared the supper and our Heritage Week Committee, headed by Verona Rothwell, who arranged a musical treat for us all.

G.O.

Marrickville Heritage Study

Members of the public can now purchase the recently published Marrickville Heritage Study at a cost of \$25. The 504 page volume is densely packed with information about Marrickville. After a short introduction about how the study was set up there are chapters on the major historical themes of Marrickville, major dates of significance and some essays on ways of understanding and conserving the environmental heritage. There is also a useful bibliography of Marrickville which lists over a hundred items.

The bulk of the study lists several hundred items of heritage significance in Marrickville such as individual buildings or precincts, bridges, mile-markers, water holes, sewer stacks, hotels, shops, business premises, parks, post offices, churches and even the odd horse trough. There is a description of each heritage item along with notes on its history and significance and a photograph of the item in question.

The study, completed in February 1986, has not been revised to include changes in Marrickville since then. Item 1.11 (p. 213) features BSA Textiles Pty Ltd (better known as Rose's Emporium) before it was demolished. There is, however, a list on p. 197 of ten items which have been added to the study since February 1986.

This is the most extensive list of heritage items in Marrickville augmenting the smaller lists of classified items previously developed by the National Trust and Heritage Council of New South Wales. The publication of this substantial volume is a welcome development.

R.C.

New Members

Miss Joy Lewis; James Dibble; John Germain; Adrian and Hazel Vickers; F and J Ellis.

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held at the Amenities Room, Petersham Town Hall. Nominations are called for the following nine positions on the Executive of the Society.

President, Vice-Presidents (2), Secretary, Assistant-Secretary, Treasurer, Additional Member (3).

Nominations may be in writing and directed to the Secretary before the AGM or made in person at the AGM. All written nominations must be accompanied by a written acceptance of nomination and must be made and seconded by financial members.

The meeting will also determine the number and character of the Committees of the Society and will determine the respective Chairs of each Committee.

Heritage Listings

The Australian Heritage Commission has recently published a list of items in NSW it intends to enter in the Register of the National Estate.

Among the items listed are the Wolli Creek and Cooks River Sewer Aqueducts between Marrickville South and Arncliffe; the former ASC Sugar Mill at Canterbury; and the Long Cove Creek Whipple Truss Rail Bridge at Lewisham.

The aqueducts, built in 1896, were an important part of Sydney's early sewage disposal system. The brick arches were finished with glazed bricks and carefully detailed mouldings and decorations. The large metal beams for the sewerage line were fabricated on the site.

The Sugar Mill was built by the Australian Sugar Company in 1841. It is of six storeys and had a 130 foot circular chimney, since demolished after becoming unsafe. The Mill originally stood on 60 acres. It operated until 1855, then stood empty for several years, until Blacketts, an engineering firm, used it as an iron foundry. In 1900, the Canterbury Bacon Factory was established in the building, being taken over in 1908 by J.C. Hutton. In 1977, a new factory was built and the Mill has stood empty since then.

The Long Cove Creek Rail Bridge was erected in 1886 to replace the stone arch viaduct built in 1853. It was designed, based on the American Whipple Truss principle, by Max Thompson, a railway deputy engineer, and built by G H Royce and Co of Pyrmont.

The Lewisham bridge and two others (built 1892 and 1927) carrying the western rail lines over Long Cove Creek, show 50 years of development of metal truss bridges at one location.

R.E.T.

Pioneer Church Book Launch

On 15th May 1988, a new book on the history of St Peters Church, Cooks River, was launched by the Archbishop of Sydney, Donald Robinson.

As well as covering the history of the church for the past 150 years the book also contains information on the local area, many photographs and a complete burial list for the graveyard adjacent to the church (1839-1896).

This book, co-written by member Laurel Horton should prove of interest to local historians, pioneer families and those tracing their family tree. We will include a review in our next issue.

Cost is \$12 (plus postage \$2.50). Obtain your copy by writing to "Publications" St Peters Anglican Church, 187 Princes Hwy, St Peters 2044, or direct from Tempe Newsagency.

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