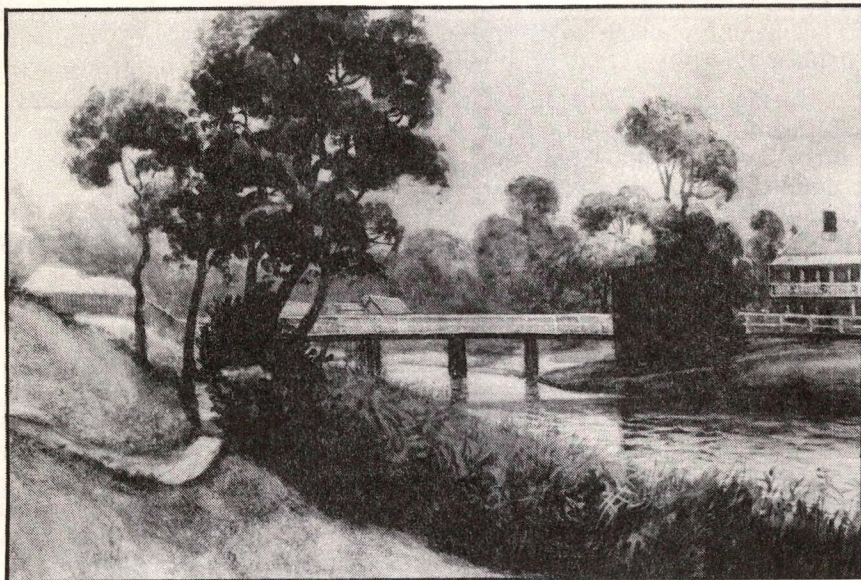


MARRICKVILLE

HERITAGE SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



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'Undercliffe Bridge 1908' (looking upstream where Illawarra Road crosses Cooks River), a watercolour painting by J.A.Knight and presented to Council by Horace Bremer.

Bicentennial Beacons

A beacon lighting by the Mayor, simultaneously with similar lightings by the mayors of other local government areas throughout Australia on Saturday, 18 June. Symbolizing unification, it will be the longest 'chain of beacons' in the world.

Best view will be from Richardson's Lookout, where it will be possible to see the first beacon lit at Botany Bay at 4.50pm. There will be a sausage sizzle from 5pm to 7pm.

Vincent Serventy

The renowned conservationist, Vincent Serventy, will give a public talk for the Wollie Creek Preservation Society. He will speak on Regional Corridors for Urban Wildlife - with reference to Wollie Creek and the Botany Bay region, on Tuesday, 21 June at 7.30pm at the Earlwood Senior Citizens' Centre, corner of Hartill-Law Avenue and Homer St, Earlwood. Admission is \$2 (\$1 for pensioners). Supper will be served afterwards.

Publishing in Marrickville

SATURDAY JULY 23, 10.30AM
Come and meet local publisher and Society member, Sylvia Hale, of Hale & Iremonger, Petersham. Sylvia will talk about local publishing and provide an exhibit of Hale & Iremonger books.

The morning will also include a visit to Southwood Press, 80 Chapel Street, Marrickville, where Hale & Iremonger books are printed.

Details of the meeting will be given in the July Newsletter.

Subscription Increase

The Executive will recommend to the AGM that there be a small increase in subscriptions raising the individual rate from \$7 to \$8 and the concession rate for pensioners and students from \$2 to \$4 but making no change to the household rate of \$10.

There are two main reasons for the recommendation. This is the first proposed increase, the existing subscriptions have not been changed for four years. During this time there has been an increase in the size and quality of the publications of the Society which have generated greater costs.

Annual General Meeting

JUNE 25 10.30AM AMENITIES ROOM PETERSHAM TOWN HALL

Many people avoid AGMs like the plague because they consist of one long-winded report after another and are generally deadly dull. The Executive hope that our forthcoming meeting won't be like this. They have decided to restrict the number of formal reports from a possible total of nine to just three. This will leave plenty of time for questions and for members of the Society to express their opinions about the past and future directions of the Society.

During the past year there have been many initiatives, such as lobbying for heritage items, a larger journal, sponsorship, a new Newsletter format and a new Sub Committee (Promotions).

The Executive hope that a significant number of our members will attend the AGM both to listen to and to comment on what has been achieved over the past year.

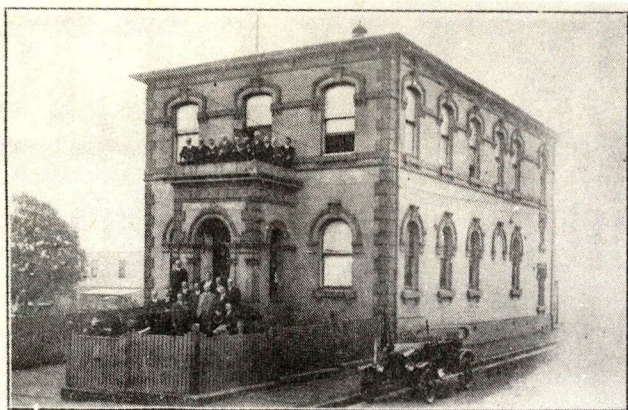
The AGM is also the occasion to review our Committee structure and to discuss whether all the present Sub Committees should continue in their present form. Our structure is not sacrosanct. The Executive would welcome any suggestions to add to, subtract from, or change our Committee structure.

Members will also have the opportunity to farewell the Thompsons who are moving to Taree in the near future. Robert and Anne have contributed to the Society in many capacities and, among other things, were the makers of our magnificent Society banner.

With the departure of the Thompsons and Laurel Thomas (moving to Pymble), there is all the more need for 'new blood' to help us in large and small ways from being a member of the Executive or a Sub Committee to distributing or typing up the Newsletter.
R.C.

Our Membership

With this newsletter each member will receive one of our new membership brochures titled "Discover Your Own Heritage". If you could give it to someone you know and encourage them to join the Society, then our membership will continue to grow strongly. Additional copies of the brochure are obtainable from me on 569.9928
Bruce Welch



Old Town Hall - Update

The transfer of the first Marrickville Town Hall from the Education Department to the Housing Commission is now complete, although the final use of the building has not been decided. Members will also be pleased to know that the NSW Government has upgraded the Interim Conservation Order on the building to a Permanent Conservation Order. Hopefully, the building will be restored as soon as possible. Members' letters to the Housing Minister, Mr Schipp c/- Parliament House, on this matter would be appropriate.

B.W.

Heritage Listings

Four buildings have been added to Marrickville Council's Heritage Study. St Luke's Church, Enmore (discussed in Heritage 4); 'Hurlingham', the Gannon house at Tempe; the Carmelite Convent Chapel in Wardell Road; and 'Carthness' at 41 Unwins Bridge Road, St Peters. Carthness is a fine Gothic/Italianate house - the house and garden have also recently been classified by the National Trust.

This property has apparently been in the one family since it was built and both the house and the garden have remained remarkably intact through continued maintenance. Because of this it is an excellent example of its style, and of the type of villas being built in the area in the latter part of the nineteenth century.

B.W.

Remembered with Pride

This book, subtitled 'Recollections of an Australian Gold Digger', is the memoirs of Mark Hammond, who, born without wealth or status, left his mark on Australian society.

The book is an important document on the gold rush days and makes compelling reading. Of local interest are his recollections of living in Newtown, playing in the newly-completed Stanmore House, and of Mary Reiby.

After making his fortune on the goldfields he returned to Ashfield, entered politics and became Mayor of Ashfield. He then entered State Parliament in April 1884 as MLA for Canterbury. That electorate then covered the suburbs from St Peters and Petersham to Homebush and Sans Souci and was represented by three members in the parliament.

This well-illustrated book of approximately 200 pages is available from Ashfield Council.

B.W.

New Members Anthony R. Hynes W. & M. McDonald

CHELSEA HOUSE

1st. Birthday Celebrations
10am-6pm, 2nd & 3rd July.
You're invited to a preview of
Australian paintings & prints.
Friday 1st July, 6-9pm.
160 Parramatta Road Camperdown
516 2737

Wolli Creek

Forty members and friends made a tour up the Wolli Creek Valley. Among the highlights of the day were the panoramic view from Nannygoat Hill to Botany Bay and up to Hurstville; the fine stands of Angophora at Girraween Park; the 'rain-forest type' ferns surrounding the 'Chinaman's swimming pool'; the rare Magenta Lilli-Pilli tree with its brightly-coloured and tasty fruit; and the encouraging signs of regeneration - both natural and that done by National Trust workers funded by Canterbury Council.

Unfortunately, we also saw much broken plastic, polystyrene and glass, oil slicks in the water and the incursion of lantana and cactus. Gavin Gatenby asks that we write to the Minister for Environment, Tim Moore, to expedite the lifting of the Highway Reservation Order so that this neglected resource can be properly valued.

M.M.

Pioneer Church Book Launch

The suburb of St Peters is inextricably tied up with the Anglican church which gives the suburb its name and so it is good to see the publication of a definitive 96 page history of the parish written by two members of the Society, Laurel Horton and Tom Halls. The publication celebrates both our Bicentennial year and the 150th anniversary of the building of the church.

St Peter's has many claims to fame. The foundation stone was laid just fifty years after the first unwilling European settlers arrived in Australia. It was designed by Thomas Bird in the 'gothick' style of pointed windows, vaulted nave and soaring spire (removed in 1961). Later additions including the wine-glass shaped pulpit were designed by Edmund Blacket. Some of the stained glass windows (unique for their time and illustrated in colour in the publication) depict Australian wild-flowers.

St Peter's seems also to be the first Anglican church in the antipodes to be built by free labour. This may not seem such an important claim to fame nowadays when it is respectable to have convict ancestors, but it must have been something of a relief to the wealthy citizens of Tempe who subscribed to the building fund that not one convict workman was flogged and not one drop of blood deliberately shed in the building of what was to become the principal architectural ornament of the district.

For the non-churchgoer, the volume also includes a considerable social history of the Tempe/St Peters area including brief biographies of Spark, Chalder, Unwin and the other pioneers who settled the area and gave their names to the streets of the surrounding suburbs. Many were buried in the graveyard close to the church they loved. The authors should be congratulated for including original source materials such as the report of the sermon preached by Bishop Broughton at the opening of the church which damned all Papists (Roman Catholics) and purported to show why the Anglican church had supremacy in the colony. How attitudes to ecumenicalism have changed in the last century and a half!

This history of St Peter's is a most useful companion volume to Heritage No 4 which contains a complementary article by Barbara Le Maistre on the development of the suburb of St Peters. It also includes an alphabetical list of all 2498 names in the burial register which will be of inestimable value to family historians and is available from 187 Princes Highway, St Peters, 2044 or Tempe News-agency at a cost of \$12.

On Sunday, 10th July at 10am, there will be a special commemorative service at St Peter's to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the Laying of the Foundation Stone by the Governor of New South Wales, Sir George Gipps, in 1838. All members of Marrickville Heritage Society are invited to attend. Copies of the history will be available for sale after the service.

G.O.