



MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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Our Next Meeting

Saturday 22nd August, at 10.30am in the Amenities Room, Petersham Town Hall, Sister Basil and Terry Hare will speak, and Chrys Meader will show a selection of historic slides, on the History and Heritage of Cook's River, which was described by Captain Cook in 1770 as "A very fine stream of water".



Unwins Bridge, 1912

Our next excursion to the Old Quarantine Station at North Head will be held on Saturday 19th September, 1987. We will be catching a ferry from Circular Quay to Manly at 10.30am to meet a bus at Manly wharf at 11.10 am. The guided tour of the station, which includes easy walking, takes about an hour and a half. The bus will return the group to Manly wharf at approximately 1.00pm. The Bus and Tour cost \$3. The return ferry fare to Manly costs \$3 (adults) \$1.50 (children). Bookings to Anne Carolan at 4064862 or Chrys Meader at 5609333 ext. 282.

Our Last Meeting...

Did you know . . .

That seven Greek pirates were among convicts transported to Australia in 1829? . . . That the wife of Queensland's first Governor was a Greek-Venetian named Roma Diamantina? . . . That the Australian gold fields attracted so many Greeks that a section of Tambaroora township was known at "Greek Town"? . . . That Greeks figured largely among proprietors of oyster saloons in Australia in the late nineteenth century? . . . That Greek sponge fishermen were brought out to replace the Japanese pearl shell divers who worked off the north-west coast after World War II? . . . That the present Greek community in Australia numbers about 500,000?

These and other surprises are part of the history being compiled as an exhibition and book under the title "Greek Australians in their own image". Leonard Janiszewski (who, with Effy Alexakis, has been at work on the project since 1982), showed a selection of the exhibition's photographic images at the Society's July meeting. He hoped, he said, that the in-depth treatment of the subject would help to dispel the stereotyped public view of ethnic groups in Australia. Certainly the slides which accompanied his lecture gave a round perspective on the social, cultural and historical background of Greek migration to Australia, as well as indicating the great diversity within the community.

Research for the project is still continuing, and it is hoped that the exhibition will stimulate a response from the general public in terms of visual and literary material and oral testimony. If you can assist in any way, please contact (02) 5697621, or send correspondence to 18 Fisher Street, Petersham 2049.

- Dr Laurel Thomas

Brockleigh

Brockleigh is now a pile of rubble but be very clear in your minds that it can be rebuilt.

The case for rebuilding is simple: firstly, it returns Brockleigh to the community; secondly, it provides the ultimate deterrent to similar illegal demolition of protected buildings; thirdly, the materials and knowhow for rebuilding are readily available. Considering the vast restoration projects undertaken by the National Trust, Historic Houses Trust and some private individuals, the reconstruction of Brockleigh would not present any major difficulties. All members and friends of the Society are urged to write to Mr Bob Carr, Minister for Planning and Environment, Parliament House, Sydney 2000 and Dr Andrew Refshauge, State Member for Marrickville, 20 Station Street, Marrickville 2204, asking that the house be rebuilt.

- Tony Deguara

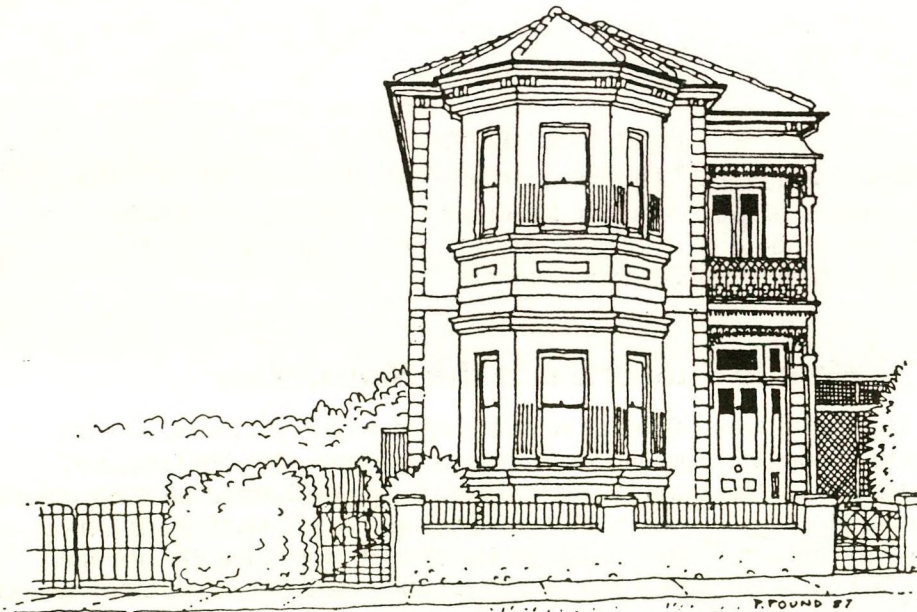
Another Demolition Disaster ?

Residents of Railway Street, Petersham, recently approached Marrickville Council to take "whatever action is possible" to ensure the preservation of a fine Victorian house called "Sydenham", which was the original name of this subdivision of Petersham. The house with its adjoining tennis court was put up for auction, and neighbours feared it would be demolished to make way for townhouses similar to those at present being erected in Croydon St on the site of the historic "St Remo".

It lies within the North Petersham Conservation Area identified by the National Trust, and also within the Sydenham Village Residential Precinct identified in the Marrickville Heritage Study. A large number of homes in the street have been sold to people who have restored them in keeping with their period of construction (either Federation or Victorian) and it is considered that the remaining Victorian homes should be preserved.

"Sydenham", at 23 Railway Street, complements adjoining buildings in style, shape, height and texture, differing only in the finer points of external detail. The house contains plaster ceilings in good condition with very fine detail together with some original stairs, architraves and picture rails.

With information provided by our Secretary, Chrys Meader, members of the Heritage Society were instrumental in having a Section 130 Order gazetted on 10th July which states the building "shall not be harmed".



Archival Study Centre at Petersham Town Hall

Work has commenced on the Bicentennial Project to establish an Archival Study Centre in the old Council Chambers at Petersham Town Hall. The two-year project is funded jointly by a Commemorative Projects Grant (\$100,000) and a Local Government Initiatives Grant (\$78,000). Under this project the old Council Chamber will be restored to its 1937 decor and will become the search room for people researching the Council archives, while the Aldermen's Room is being converted to a storage area with the strict environmental controls and security needed to house the archives.

Ms Rhona Clement has already begun work as the project's Information Coordinator (Archivist); over the next two years she will be responsible for ensuring the preservation, storage, arrangement and listing of Council's pre-1948 archives, and for compiling guides and inventories to facilitate retrieval of information and promotion of their research use. It is expected that the archives will be available for public use in approximately 18 months.

The restoration work is under the direction of David Spode, interior design consultant, who has recently completed the restoration of the Prime Minister's Lodge in Canberra and is now working on Kirribilli House.

Book Notes

The Ferry, the Branch, the Creek - Aspects of Hawkesbury History, written and published by the Dharug and Lower Hawkesbury Historical Society, is a well written and well researched local history which makes an excellent companion to Bowd's Hawkesbury Journey (reviewed in a recent Newsletter) and is well worth having for its own sake. Available from the publishers at PO Box, Wiseman's Ferry, 2255.

New Members

Laurel and Peter Adriaansz; Dr Robert Cameron, descendant of Leslie Duguid, one of the pioneers of St Peters and builder of "The Possle" (Gaelic "great wood") later called Bayview House; Judith Matheson; Mrs Una Pontey; Nicole and Peter Raftos; David Roberts; T Simpson.

How to Subscribe to the Newsletter

It's only \$7 for individuals, \$10 for households and institutions, \$2 for pensioners and students. You will become a member of the Society and 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 (5609333 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 (5683029).