



MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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Our Next Meeting

Saturday, 24th October, Marrickville Heritage Society will join local publishers Hale and Iremonger for a celebrity book launching at Trethaway, 18 Shaw Street, Petersham, a fine Victorian Italianate villa built in the 1890s. The book is called A Place Like Home and tells the story of the three Lavarini sisters, Ivy, Lena and Isabelle, who were placed at the School of Industry at Petersham in 1915, because their father had gone to fight in the Great War and their mother was too ill to raise the family on her own. It was seven long years before the children were rescued from harsh deprivation at the School, which was subsequently demolished.

Meet EITHER at Petersham Town Hall at 10.30am or at Trethaway at 11am.

(Photo: Ivy, Lena and Isabelle Lavarini at the School of Industry, c. 1916).



Future Program

Saturday, 28th November, Rhona Clement, Information Co-ordinator, Archival Reference Centre, will speak on Marrickville Council Archives.

Wednesday, 30th December, Evening Harbour Cruise, 6pm-10pm (details to be announced).

Our Last Meeting

The Old Quarantine Station at North Head

It was perfect weather for our harbour crossing and excursion to the Old Quarantine Station on 19th September. About 40 members and friends enjoyed the outing but it was of special interest to Commander Leslie Brooks, who, when a 15-year-old "boy, 2nd class" on the training ship HMAS TINGIRA, had spent 8 weeks at the Station as a suspected carrier of diphtheria in 1915. His anecdotes wonderfully complemented the commentary of the guide.

The Station was established in the 1830s to protect the Colony from diseases brought in by immigrants, and successively housed sufferers from cholera, typhoid, whooping cough, diphtheria, smallpox, yellow fever and other scourges of the times. Armed guards patrolled it, and conditions were harsh.

At the passenger reception area we were shown the fumigation chamber (for the cargo), the bathhouse (for the people) and the laundry (for the clothes). High up on the hill were the hospital, the observation wards and the mortuary, and, separate from these and from each other, the quarters for 1st class, 2nd class, and "Asiatics and Steerage". Most of the buildings were erected between 1860 and 1920, but tents often took the overflow. Designed to house 1000 people, the Station was forced to accommodate 3,500 at the height of the influenza epidemic of 1919, and it continued to serve a useful purpose until after World War II. With the advent of effective immunization and antibiotics, the need for quarantine has diminished, although the buildings were used to house victims of Cyclone Tracy and also Vietnamese refugees during the 1970s.

Since 1984 the Station has become part of the Sydney Harbour National Park. It is now cared for by the National Parks and Wildlife Service, and an extensive restoration programme is under way. Over 50 archeological sites have been identified, including several Aboriginal sites, as well as nearly 1000 European and Asian rock carvings dating back to 1835. At present access to the area is by guided tour only, but eventually the gates will be permanently open to the public.

Our thanks to Anne Carolan for organizing this excursion.

- Laurel Thomas

The Good, the Bad and the Ugly

- A** The Minister visits one of the beautifully restored houses in Railway Street, Petersham.
- B** Mr Carr states that the only two breaches of the Heritage Act since 1977 have occurred in the Marrickville Municipality.
- C** All that remains of Rose's Emporium, supposedly protected by the 1977 Heritage Act.

Minister Visits Marrickville

The Minister for Planning and Environment and Minister for Heritage, Mr Bob Carr, M.P., made an historic visit to Marrickville on 13th September.

Prior to addressing a public meeting Mr Carr was taken on a tour of various heritage sites in the Municipality. Enjoying the delightful spring weather, Mr Carr walked along some important streetscapes and even inspected the interior of a fine Victorian house in Gordon Crescent, Stanmore.

The Society hired a mini-bus so that the tour party could examine individual sites and also get a broader impression of whole precincts.

Addressing a crowd of around 200 at Marrickville Town Hall, Mr Carr announced some sweeping protection measures for Marrickville.

He stressed that there was the opportunity here 'to save not just isolated buildings, but whole precincts with historic character'. He added that the Government is prepared to use the full extent of its powers to preserve 'irreplaceable items of our heritage'.

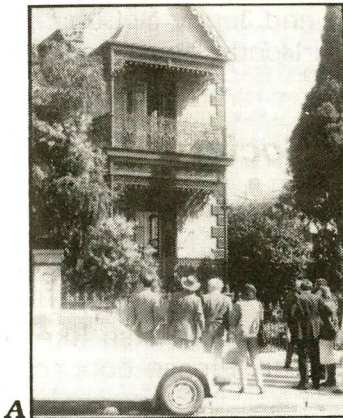
Mr Carr then announced a conservation package for Marrickville which included:

1. The imposition of Section 130 'no-demolition' orders on 28 historic buildings in the Marrickville area.
2. 'A request to Marrickville Council to expedite the preparation of a local environment plan which identifies protective measures for buildings of historic significance'.
3. 'A warning that the Minister is prepared' to exercise his power to alter a local plan to ensure that heritage items are adequately protected.
4. The Minister 'called-in, under Section 101 of the Environmental and Assessment Act, all development applications relating to Rose's Emporium'.

Mr Carr stated that the Conservation Branch of the Department of Environment and Planning will be conducting further talks with the Marrickville Heritage Society on the heritage items in the local study.

I would like to thank all members of the Society for their support.

- Richard Cashman



A



B



C

Help Needed !

A recent fire which engulfed the home and unique music library of John and Robyn Godfrey resulted in the loss of much invaluable nineteenth-century musical culture.

The collection of about 20,000 scores of Salon and other popular music from the period 1850 to 1960, although saved by the efforts of fire-fighters, is now at risk from mould growth ensuing from water damage.

During the weeks since the fire, a band of volunteers, under the direction of Alan Howe, Manager of the Preservation Department of the NSW State Library, has removed the collection to the safety of a nearby factory. Many pieces have been interleaved with paper towels and with careful tending and turning have dried out in the atmosphere while others have been frozen pending treatment.

Items salvaged will need to be shelved and re-catalogued which will be a slow and laborious process. At the moment most urgently needed are helpers, money, shelving, a photocopier, filing cabinets, paper, manila folders, cardboard, masking tape, packing tape and cloth tape.

John and Robyn Godfrey's phone number is 6607319 and any assistance would be appreciated.

- Eve Sharpe

Heritage Rose Show

On the weekend of 24th and 25th October, the third annual exhibition of old fashioned roses will be held at Elizabeth Farm, 70 Alice Street, Parramatta (Phone 6359488). Fragrant beauties from the past will be arranged in this superbly restored house and gardens. There will be a stall selling potted roses and cottage garden plants suitable for small gardens. Please contact Bruce Welch or Paula Gard (Phone 5699928) for further details.

New Members

Sylvia Hale; Chris Kokoutos; Alan Lewis; Ingrid Paling; Michael Tierney; Marilyn and Neil Jones; F.M. and L.G. Cottee; Michael and Jenny McGuirk; Roslyn Gard; Tarne Malor; Vito Radice; L. Hyde and K. Woods; Margaret Sinclair; Commander Leslie Brooks; Florence Jones.

How to Subscribe to the Society

It's only \$7 for individuals, \$10 for households and institutions, and \$2 for students and pensioners. You will 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. Write to The Secretary, PO Box 415, Marrickville 2204. The editor would also like to hear from members with contributions to the Newsletter. Please contact Mark Matheson (5595502) or Geoff Ostling (5683029).