



MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

ISSN 0818-0695 Vol 4 No 9 March 1988
Postal Address PO Box 415 Marrickville 2204

Coming Events

A Visit to Eryldene

Eryldene is a fine example of a colonial revival house located at Gordon on the North Shore. It was built for Professor Waterhouse, a world-renowned expert on camellias, who embellished it with a splendid exotic garden.

Meet at Petersham Town Hall at 9.30am Saturday 26th March. You will be made welcome at Eryldene with a cup of tea and biscuit and a short talk about the house and gardens. There will be ample time to stroll around the grounds before we return to Petersham in the early afternoon.

A donation of \$2.50 (adult), \$1.50 (pensioner), 50 cents (big children - no charge for small children) will go towards the maintenance of Eryldene. (\$1 donation for the bus).

If you need transport, please contact Chrys Meader as soon as possible at 560 9333 ext 282.



The Pavilion at Eryldene

The Greek People 'in their own image'

This extraordinary collection of photographs - by and of Greek people, in Australia and Greece, from 1850 'til now - will be on display at Petersham Town Hall from 21 to 27 March. The Society had a preview of the exhibition in July when Leonard Janiszewski spoke at our monthly meeting.

Cooks River Festival

Performances by the Bwung-Gul Aboriginal Cultural Group will feature at this year's Cooks River Festival. There'll also be clowns, stalls, the Air League brass band and tours of Wolli Creek; it's at Steel Park on March 27 11am-5pm.

The Bus and Truck Museum

Dr Andrew Refshauge will open the Bus and Truck Museum in Gannon St Tempe on April 2. The Museum, which displays a range of vintage trucks and buses - single and double-deckers - is housed in the former Tempe Tram Depot (built 1912). The Museum is run by volunteer enthusiasts with the co-operation of the Urban Transit Authority, and will open on Sundays 11am-4pm.



Bicentennial Heritage Concert

This will be the fourth in our annual series of concerts held in conjunction with St Brigid's Church, cnr of Marrickville and Livingstone Roads, Friday 29 April 1988 at 8.15pm.

We are honoured indeed that Mr James Dibble, a Marrickville "old boy" has kindly agreed to narrate the performance.

These concerts cater for all tastes - exploring old and new traditions of Marrickville music-making - but they also provide an opportunity to view this magnificent Romanesque building.

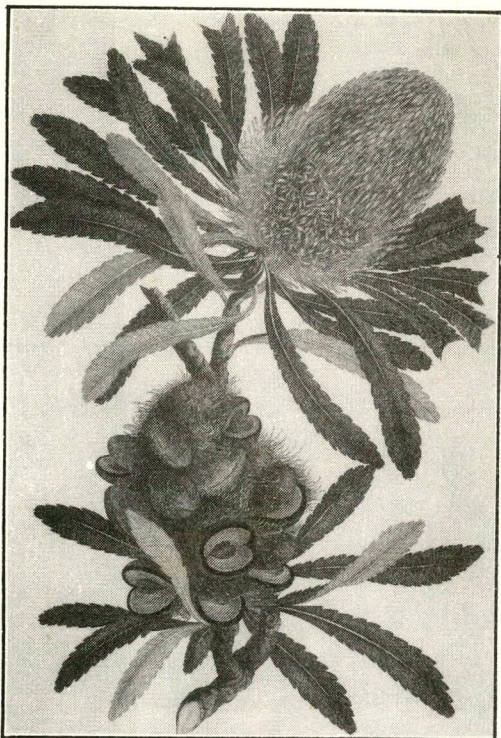
This year the programme will include Hugh Jones, local harpsichordist and musical instrument maker; the Crivici String Quartette; Simon Salter, flautist; Dan Prior, Tenor; Beryl Brownlee, Soprano and the St Brigid's and tongan Choirs. Choirmaster at St Brigid's is Simon Salter and Musical Director is Connie Cloran.

This year a capacity audience is anticipated so we suggest you hurry to make advance bookings. Please contact Paula Gard (569 9928), Verona Rothwell (523 3750 after 6pm) to secure tickets which are very reasonable: Family \$8; Single \$6; Concession \$4.

Wolli Creek

Gavin Gatenby talks about this little-known but valuable natural resource on Friday May 6 in the Petersham Town Hall Activities Room at 7.15pm.

This will be supplemented by a visit to the area on Saturday May 28.



Banksia Serrata from
Banks' Florilegium

Our Last Meetings...

The Story of Botanical Collecting in Australia

Dampier, Cook, Flinders, all household names in the history of Australian exploration. However, less well known is the story of the botanists who accompanied these navigators.

At our meeting on 5th February, the history of botanical collecting in Australia was presented in a lively manner by Karen Wilson, Senior Botanist of the National Herbarium.

She traced the interest in plants and natural science during the 17th and 18th centuries in Europe. Following the Golden Age of Botany (the period of Linnaeus, the great European floral illustrators and the publishing of local floras) the next step was to describe the lands to the south, "Terra Australis". The early expeditions were required to consider the scientific interest of those lands they visited. As a result we have a wealth of information about natural history in the plant collections of Banks and Solander, of Labillardiere (who named our flannel flower) from the d'Entrecasteaux voyage in search of la Perouse, and others, mostly French and British.

Karen Wilson told the story of the colony's early days and the important collections of Robert Brown, botanist with Matthew Flinders on the "Investigator".

In the latter half of the 19th century Baron Ferdinand von Mueller was the dominant figure. Collectors, amateur and professional, sent their collections to him for determination. Karen Wilson, who specialises in sedges and travels extensively to collect them, concluded her talk with slides of a well-equipped base camp of the type used by botanists collecting today. Indeed, Australia still remains a fine field for botanizing.

- Shirley Hilyard

Popular Dance

Why was dancing such a popular pastime in the years immediately following the Great War? Was popular dancing designed to encourage 'an irresistible flamed lust' or 'merely an excuse for kissing and cuddling' - as described by one Presbyterian minister's wife? Why were bands such as 'Bob Ellis and his Californians' paid more than £300 per week when the average wage was £3? And who was the girl who danced with the Prince of Wales at the Wentworth Ballroom in Sydney in 1920?*

These and many more questions were answered at our last meeting. Phyllis McCorquodale described how the dancing craze began and the splendour of dance halls such as the Salon de Luxe, the Ginger Jar, the Hotel Cecil, the Ambassadors, the Trocadero and closer to home, the Albert Palais in Parramatta Road and the splendid Town Hall at Marrickville.

People were guaranteed a good night's entertainment, the opportunity to get dressed up in pretty clothes, to get some exercise and meet new friends. It was safe for girls to go alone and many found the man of their dreams at these 'Popular Dances', all for the price of a shilling or one and six.

The craze ended in the 1950s with the introduction of television and the 10 o'clock closing of hotels but there has been a revival of interest in recent years and both of our Town Halls continue to have '50-50' or 'Old Time' dances.

* Mollie Walder. Does anyone know what happened to her?

- Geoff Ostling

Council to Adopt Heritage Plan

At its meeting of 23 February, Marrickville Council resolved to prepare a Draft Local Environmental Plan to conserve items of environmental heritage. The Plan, when completed, will provide greater protection for the majority of the 334 premises identified in the Marrickville Heritage Study.

Sadly, some twenty-two out of the 334 properties have been excluded from this list because the owners made submissions requesting not to be included in the Local Environment Plan. Council will inspect these properties over the next three months to determine their future status.

After a Local Environment Plan has been drafted there will be an opportunity for the public to comment on the specific details of the Plan prior to its implementation.

New Members

Stephen Sinclair; Vivyan Palma; Marilyn Leeds; H.F. Stevenson; Paul Heath; Cassandra; Bill Kapp; Chelsea House Antique Centre; Glenn Gould and family; Jim Walker; John Gould; Avril Towerton; Joy Vickerstaff; Kaye McIntyre; Roderick Mackay; B. Wilson; M. Martin.

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.



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featuring Australian furniture
plus special displays

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