

# MARRICKVILLE

## HERITAGE SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



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### Visit to Local Publisher

MEET AT HALE & IREMONGER'S, 51 PALACE STREET, PETERSHAM 10.30 A.M. SATURDAY, 23 JULY  
Publisher and Society member, Sylvia Hale, will talk about local publishing and about how books are produced. You will have a chance to wander around the warehouse of the firm, which has multiple copies of all the titles previously published by this press. Afterwards we will inspect Southwood Press, 80 Chapel Street, Marrickville, where Hale and Iremonger books are printed. Any members who lack transport should contact Chrys Meader on 560-9333 ext. 282.

### More to Show & Tell

FRIDAY AUGUST 12, 7.30 P.M. PETERSHAM TOWN HALL  
Following the success of our last Show and Tell evening when such members as Leslie Isted, Les and Joyce Fairbairn, Hazel Godfrey, Dorothy Gaston, Maisie Cox and Bill Kerameas shared a little of their personal history, a similar evening is planned for our next evening meeting.  
Would members interested in coming along and joining in please phone Anne Carolan on 406-4862. Speak for a few minutes on your family, your home, a piece of furniture or anything else connected with this area.

### Who's Who on the Executive

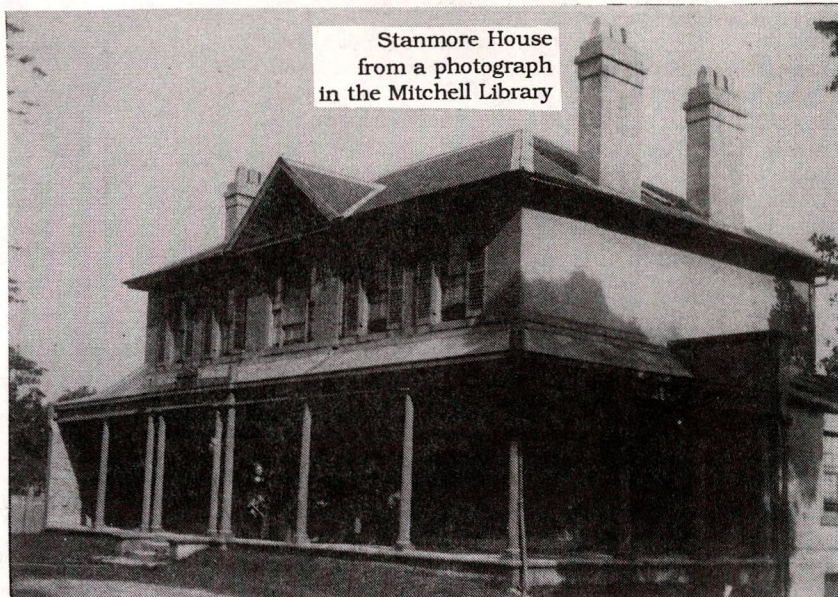
Around 40 members attended the Society's Annual General Meeting on June 25 at the Petersham Town Hall. Outgoing President Richard Cashman reported that the society had had an important and exceptional year.

Richard Cashman was re-elected unopposed as President of the Society. Other members of the Society's executive are: Eve Sharpe, Senior Vice-President; Geoff Ostling, Junior Vice-President; Chrys Meader, Secretary; Bruce Welch, Assistant Secretary; Anne Cherry, Treasurer; Anne Carolan, Terry Hicks and Mark Matheson, Committee Members. Chairpersons of the sub-committees are: Barbara Le Maistre, Publications; Chrys Meader, Community Liaison; Tony Deguara, Heritage Watch; Verona Rothwell, Heritage Week; and Terry Hicks, Classifications.

New Committee member Mark Matheson is Editor of the Newsletter. Mark is a graphic designer and has produced books for Sydney University Press, Collins and the N.S.W. Government Printing Office. Tony Deguara, new Chairperson of Heritage Watch, is an art teacher with an active and practical interest in the restoration and preservation of 'old' houses. Judith Matheson (no relation to Mark) is the new Editor of the Newsletter. Judith is a journalist with 10 years experience who is currently Sydney Editor of Australian Home Beautiful.

### Volunteers Needed

Our committee chairpersons would like to hear from members who would like to volunteer their services for our Sub-Committees. Any help would be appreciated. Is there a professional typist among our membership who could type our newsletter each month?



Stanmore House  
from a photograph  
in the Mitchell Library

### Marrickville's Oldest Residence?

STANMORE HOUSE - ENMORE ROAD

It is hard now to see the beautiful mid-19th century house shown in the photograph behind the 20th century additions. It is probably the oldest house still standing in Marrickville Municipality and certainly the oldest of the large houses associated with early settlers.

The woman who built the house, Mary Reiby, remains a puzzle. As a young teenager she posed as a male to commit the crimes which led to her transportation and then followed a ladylike and successful colonial life to become one of Australia's outstanding early businesswomen and possibly the best known female emancipist. Her biography, Mary Reiby - Molly Incognita: Emancipist Extraordinaire, by Nance Irvine is in the local history collection at Marrickville Library.

It is believed that an older house, now demolished, was lived in by Mary Reiby herself while this house was built for her beloved daughter and son-in-law. A solitary house in Enmore Road is marked as owned by Mary Reiby on an 1848 map.

Fortunately, architects and historians are aware of the great significance of this house in Australia's pre-gold rush history. But isn't it time we recognised its importance locally?

Barbara Le Maistre

### Speaking Personally: Airport Curfew

SOCIETY MEMBER MARK MATHESON WRITES:

"We all know how St. Peters and the surrounding areas have regressed since the pastoral days described in our latest Journal, how the airport and traffic to the airport and its attendant industries have made the area less and less attractive. Senator Evans, the Minister for Transport, is now meeting with local municipal councils (S.M.H. July 12) in order to expand operations and eliminate the curfew on night flights. The politicians and operators are confident of further expansion because there is no perceived resident opposition; they are relying on our passivity. I believe it's crucial that we speak now (by ringing 211-4570, Department of Aviation, or writing to council) in order to maintain our standard of living."

If you have a personal viewpoint on any aspect of heritage, write to the editor.



## President's Report

This has been an important and exceptional year for the Society, partly due to the Bicentennial. We have had more functions than ever before: including two enjoyable cruises, the Pioneers' and Residents' Picnic Day and the Bicentennial Heritage Concert.

The Society has also taken a higher profile in regard to heritage in Marrickville. One highlight of the year was the visit of the Hon. Bob Carr, then Minister for Planning & the Environment and Minister for Heritage on September 13. After Mr. Carr toured selected sites of Marrickville he announced a number of local heritage initiatives at a public meeting at Marrickville Town Hall.

None of the above, along with the regular work of the Society, could have been achieved without many people working hard on many fronts. It has given me much encouragement to see how many people, both on and off the Executive, in large and small ways, have worked hard for the Society including many behind-the-scenes jobs.

I believe that we can look together with some measure of confidence to the coming year. We have an expanding membership, 220 by last count, and events, particularly the excursions, have been very well patronised. We can look forward to two more major Bicentennial events: the re-erection of Gilbert Doble's Winged Victory statue in November and the establishment of the archives.

There are some significant challenges which face us. With the change in the State Government there will be new heritage directions. We have extended the same invitation made to Mr. Carr to the new Minister. However, beyond that we will have to be very vigilant about heritage.

I believe that in many areas we have become more professional in our operations in terms of publicity, organising public events, presentation and design of printed material. The challenge is to be complete professionals in every phase of our activities which includes lobbying and even inter-personal relations.

We also need to maintain our position as a non-political Society which attracts people with quite different interests in heritage. We are a very plural Society. It is our strength. It will not be a weakness providing members co-operate in the common interest of heritage without necessarily compromising their individual interests or perspectives.

Richard Cashman

## Committee Reports

### CLASSIFICATIONS

Classifications accepted in the last year were: Hurlingham, Union Street, Tempe; and Carthness, Unwins Bridge Road, Sydenham. Classifications lodged but still awaiting consideration include: Marrickville Public School; Shops 92-96 Percival Road, Stanmore; Penston Hall, 159 Livingstone Road, Marrickville; and Stanmore Road horse trough. Thanks to Terry Hicks and his Committee.

### HERITAGE WATCH

The committee's call-out list worked well at the time of the Brockleigh demolition and some members were able to provide the Heritage Council of N.S.W. with statements. As a result of Committee efforts, a permanent Conservation Order has now been placed on the Old Marrickville Town Hall.



## Brockleigh Update

The demolisher of the building known as "Brockleigh", 86-90 Illawarra Road, Marrickville, has been convicted of an offence under the Heritage Act and a penalty of \$2000 has been imposed by the court. In addition, the defendant was ordered to pay the Prosecutor's costs of \$15000.

The Minister for Planning and Environment has the power to halt development of the site for up to 10 years. Representations to the Minister on this matter may convince him to impose the maximum penalty.

Bruce Welch

The committee was also involved in applications for Section 130 orders and monitoring council meetings. Thanks to chairperson Bruce Welch and his committee.

### HERITAGE WEEK

Despite dismal weather on April 29 the Bicentennial Heritage Concert, the fourth annual concert, attracted a crowd of 350 people at St. Brigid's Church. Credit for its success goes to chairperson Verona Rothwell, Barbara Le Maistre, Anne Carolan, Paula Gard. Thanks also to Bruce Welch.

Highlights of the concert included the return of prominent former resident James Dibble and the outstanding calibre of the musicians (thanks to society member Connie Cloran).

### PUBLICATIONS

The committee, chaired by Geoff Ostling, produced 11 Newsletters, most recently under the editorship of Mark Matheson. Recently the newsletter has taken a new more flexible format and accepted sponsorship from Chelsea House.

Heritage has been produced in a new more attractive format; helped by sponsorship from Kelly & Sons and a donation from Marrickville Council. Thanks also to Mark Matheson for cover design and Bruce Welch for production. Thanks to other committee members.

### PROMOTIONS

The committee produced an attractive and popular spoon with the Winged Victory crest. More than 200 spoons have been sold. Sales have already covered costs so remaining stocks represent society profits. Thanks to Eve Sharpe.

### SOCIAL

The Pioneer and Residents' Picnic Day at Richardsons Lookout on March 6 was the committee's major activity and it was a successful afternoon. The committee was chaired by Robert Thompson.

Contact was established with descendants of such pioneering families as the Holts, the Bloodworths and the Richardsons. Many former residents also attended.

## How to Subscribe

It's only \$8 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 P.O. Box 415, Marrickville, 2204.

## New Members

Richard d'Avigdor and household; Lia Yangou; David and Margaret Curry; Geraldine Davies; Simon Mottram.

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