

MARRICKVILLE

HERITAGE SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



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OUR NEXT MEETING

Pioneer Descendants to Speak

SATURDAY AUGUST 27, 10.30 A.M.
AMENITIES ROOM, PETERSHAM TOWN HALL

Come and hear short talks by a number of descendants of pioneering families of Marrickville. The talks will be illustrated by slides.

Our photograph is believed to date from the 1870s. It shows the home of Marrickville pioneers the Meek family, who were market gardeners. The house, which is built of stone quarried locally, still stands at 1 Myrtle Street,



COMING EVENTS

A Tour of Mt Tomah Gardens

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 24, 9 A.M. SHARP
MEET AT PETERSHAM TOWN HALL.

Why not visit Mt Tomah Botanic Gardens in the Spring time? The Mt Tomah Botanic Gardens, the cool climate extension of Sydney's Royal Botanic Gardens, are 105 kilometres west of Sydney on the Bell's Line of Road, 12 kilometres beyond Bilpin. The garden features a walk through the remnants of the original rain forest, which once covered the whole of the Mt Tomah area. There are also breathtaking views of the Wollemi National Park. We hope to have a guide to show us around the gardens.

We will leave on a specially chartered bus from Petersham Town Hall at 9 a.m. sharp and return by 5 p.m. Please bring a jacket or a jumper as it can be cool and crisp at Mt Tomah (1000 metres above sea level) even on a sunny day. You can either purchase sandwiches and hot drinks at the garden restaurant or take advantage of the barbeque at the gardens (20cents for 20 minutes).

It is essential to make a booking with our Secretary Chrys Meader at 560 9333 Ext 282. The cost, which includes the cost of entry and bus hire, is \$10. If you travel by private car, there is a \$2 parking fee.

Glebe Houses Open Their Doors

The Glebe Society has invited members to attend its 1988 Inspection of Historic Buildings on Sunday October 30. This annual event is of considerable historic interest. This year's inspection will coincide with the opening of Lyndhurst (Verge 1835). St John's Church will conduct an afternoon organ recital. The Glebe Society hopes that up to 15 public and private buildings will be open to visitors during the day. For further information contact Jeff Ibbotson on 660 7713 or Peter Strickland on 660 7624.

Historic Bay to Bay Walk

SUNDAY AUGUST 21

Starting place: Bestic Street, Kyeemagh
Finish: Bicentennial Park, Homebush.
Estimated Length: 17 kms, 3½-4 hours.
All residents are invited to participate in the Inaugural Bay to Bay Walk, a combined Councils Bicentennial event, along walking trails established by Rockdale, Marrickville, Canterbury and Strathfield Councils, following the banks of the Cooks River. It is not a difficult walk but it is a long one. Some hundreds of walkers are expected to participate.

Free bus transport will be provided from Petersham Administration Centre and Marrickville Town Hall to Botany Bay. Walkers will also be bused from Beaman Park, Canterbury, over a central section of the walk to Bark Huts Reserve, Strathfield, where the final leg of the walk to Bicentennial Park will begin. Transport back to Petersham and Marrickville will also be provided. Lunch and refreshments may be purchased at Bicentennial Park or bring your own. Walkers wishing to take part must register with Chrys Meader on 560 9333 Ext 282 so that transport may be arranged.

Speaking Personally : Your View

JUDITH MATHESON WRITES:

"One of the most lively sections of any newspaper is the 'Letters to the Editor' page. As the new Editor of your Newsletter I would like to encourage a similar form of discussion in this august publication. I have already had many positive reactions to Mark Matheson's comments in the last issue and I would like to hear from other members who wish to express a personal viewpoint on any aspect of local heritage. All you need to do is write 100 words (it's really not many!) and send it to: The Editor, Marrickville Heritage Society Newsletter, P.O. Box 415, Marrickville 2204.

OUR LAST MEETING A Glance at Publishing

Around 20 Society members received a 'crash course' in publishing when they attended our last meeting at Hale & Iremonger in Crystal Street, Petersham. Society member Sylvia Hale, who was a founder of the publishing company in the late 1970s, gave members an informative step-by-step account of how a book gets into print. From the time an idea is first formulated, through the exhaustive processes of editing, printing and production, each individual title represents a calculated risk. Commercial success is never guaranteed, Sylvia explained. In fact, Hale & Iremonger specialises in history, politics, labour studies, urban studies and women's studies and while these titles provide valuable references, they are often of limited appeal.

One of the latest titles is Historic Organs of NSW, which chronicles the state's unusually well preserved collection of church organs. The book was published with help from the Heritage Council of NSW. Hale & Iremonger collaborated with Australia Post for the publication of City Centrepiece, a history of the GPO.

Books with a wider appeal, such as fiction, poetry and educational titles as well as reprints represent the company's 'bread and butter'. About 30-35 new titles and 15 reprints are published each year. Members were invited to browse through the company's warehouse where all Hale & Iremonger titles were on display. Books were offered for sale and a brisk trade ensued.

For the Public Good?

The Historic Houses Trust of NSW is holding a photographic exhibition at Elizabeth Bay House which is both fascinating and sobering. It is called "For the Public Good. Demolished Houses" and according to curator James Broadbent, the exhibition is "a register of crimes, follies and misfortunes". It shows a selection of NSW houses, their gardens and interiors that were often destroyed "for the public good". The exhibition opened on July 30 and will run until November 30 at Elizabeth Bay House, Onslow Ave, Elizabeth Bay.

Thanks to our Runners

Omitted from the AGM report was a special thanks to all our 'runners' who month by month slip the Newsletter in your post box or under your door. The 'runners' in 1987-88 were: Mary Tait, Geoff and Joan Frances, Shirley Hilyard, Meg Sherwood, Robert Thompson, Edna Andrews, Tony Deguara, Brian Nugent, Anne Cherry, Jacqui Isles and Lu Bell. Chrys Meader handled all the 'postals'.

Reissue of Heritage Journals

Since Heritage 1, the first volume of our Society Journal, has been out of print for some time, the Executive has plans to reissue Heritage 1 and hopes to finalise the details shortly. The Executive is also considering the preparation of an index for Vols 1-4. Back issues of Heritage 2 and 3 are available at every Society meeting.

New Members

Jeremy and Susan Glass, J.W. Farrell, Mr L. Logan.



Hand written on this photo is: 1922 Marrickville Diamond Jubilee Procession. Photo by L.O. Kohler Wst Mcville.

Tracing Our Early Photographers

Do you have any old photographs, prior to 1945, that were taken by professional photographers working in the area? Photographic historian Sandy Barrie from Queensland is compiling a history of Australian professional photographers. Sandy worked on Mechanical Eye in Australia. 1841 to 1900. which was a great help to researchers and historians in dating early Australian photographs and providing information on photographers. Now it is planned to extend the work to cover the period from 1849 to 1945.

Sandy writes: "While many of the top and prominent studios and photographers are well documented, it is not so easy to find information on the many travelling photographers and part-time professionals who did not advertise in trade directories and newspapers."

Sandy has the names of three professional photographers working in Marrickville between 1900 and 1920. They are: Frederick A. Fordham, 15 Premier Street; Philip Smith, Carey Street; and Alfred H. Wall, Enmore Rd. A check by Society Secretary and Local Studies Librarian Chrys Meader turned up a family photograph taken by "Wall Brothers Photographers (late of Melbourne)", which appears to be dated 1890. There is no other reference to these photographers.

Chrys has forwarded a partial list of photographers to Sandy, culled from the Local Studies Collection. The list includes John Tangelder Gorus, who was Mayor of St Peters from 1873 to 1877 and a photographer by profession; A. Pritchard and L.O. Kohler, both of whom photographed the opening of Marrickville Town Hall in 1922; and Fred Harris, whose photograph of the Marrickville band was taken at a picnic at Cooks River in the 1890s. If members have any additional information or photos, contact Chrys on 560 9333 Ext 282.

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 or phone 560 9333. Ext 282. Marrickville Heritage Society holds regular meetings on the fourth Saturday of every month.