

# MARRICKVILLE

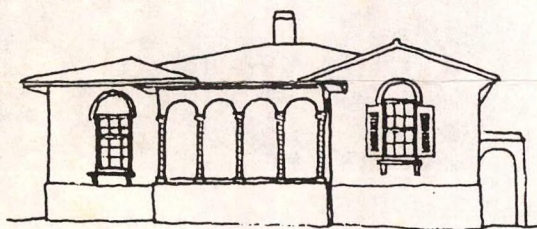
## HERITAGE SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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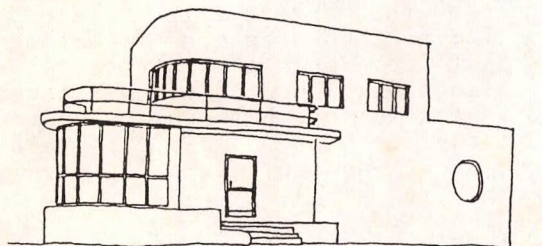
### OUR NEXT MEETING Marrickville Houses

SATURDAY OCTOBER 22, 10.30AM  
AMENITIES ROOM, PETERSHAM TOWN HALL

Not all of Marrickville's houses are Victorian, Federation or Californian Bungalow. There are other styles, too, such as Spanish Mission and Ocean Liner. Some time ago Richard Apperly from the University of NSW spoke on Australia architecture up to 1930. At our next meeting Terry Hicks, chairman of the Classifications Committee, will speak and show slides - with a less academic bent - on Marrickville's domestic architecture. "Some examples will be based on the work of the Classifications Committee, some on research, some on incidental experience and some will most probably be made up," says Terry.



Spanish Mission (1920s and 30s)



Ocean Liner (1930s and 40s)

### COMING EVENTS Winged Victory Preview

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 5

Marrickville's Peace Memorial Statue being restored by Alex Kolozsy and is to be unveiled atop its pedestal in front of Marrickville Town Hall on Armistice Day, November 11. We are hoping to gather together our members to honour both Alex Kolozsy and Gilbert Doble, the Marrickville sculptor who created the Winged Victory Memorial in 1919, at a preview in the studio. However, the colossal bronze figure is moving about during its restoration and at the time of going to press we cannot make firm arrangements. Please keep free the morning of Saturday November 5 and phone Anne Carolan on 406 4862 after mid-October if you would like to attend.

### COMING EVENTS

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 26

Would you like to attend our Christmas picnic at Petersham Park? Children and our senior members are especially welcome at this annual event. Please ring Chrys Meader on 560 9333 Ext 282 if you are interested in continuing this tradition.

FRIDAY DECEMBER 30

Annual Evening Harbour Cruise.

BOTANY CELEBRATES 100.

Botany Municipality is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year. If there are any pioneer families from the Botany area who may have photographs and memorabilia or who may be able to assist with oral history, please contact Botany Council on 669 3566.

### Colonial Colours

An exhibition of colonial paint colours, especially designed for home renovators, will be held at Elizabeth Farm, 70 Alice Street, Granville on Saturday and Sunday October 22 and 23, 10am to 4.30pm. Experts will be on hand to advise on colour and its usage. There will also be an exhibition of wallpapers and painted finishes and demonstrations of decorative finishes. Inquiries 635-9488.

### Restoring Your Home

A weekend workshop, Researching and Restoring Your Home, will be held on Saturday and Sunday October 15-16 as part of the University of NSW's Studies in the Built Environment. Workshop instructors are conservation architect Neville Burkett, and architectural historians Robert Irving and Peter Reynolds. Inquiries 697-4848.

### Speaking Personally: History or Heritage?

BRUCE WELCH WRITES:

"Recent events compel me to ask whether members wish the society to take a stronger stand on local heritage issues. The Marrickville Heritage Study has been on display and public comment has been sought, yet the society failed to make a submission to council on this very important development. If, as a society, we are truly concerned about preserving our heritage, then we should be taking a more active role in such matters. The question must be asked: are we really a "heritage" society or should we change our name to Marrickville "historical" society? I hope some open discussion will help resolve this issue."

EDITOR'S NOTE: Although the society missed the official deadline for submissions on the Marrickville Heritage Study, the Executive Committee has decided to submit a letter to Council supporting the implementation of the study.





## OUR LAST MEETING Mountain Garden Jaunt

Tired but happy after a glorious Spring excursion on Saturday September 24 to the Mount Tomah Botanic Garden, the group of 37 members and friends gathered outside Petersham Town Hall for one final photo. Mount Tomah has been established for the cultivation of trees and shrubs which need a mountain climate and which subsequently do not grow well at the Royal Botanic Gardens in Sydney.

Geoff Ostling

## Contribute to Heritage 5

Would you like to write an article for the forthcoming issue of the society Journal? Material, which relates to an aspect of life in the past in the municipality, is now being received and prepared for publication. The editorial committee will help new authors once they have put down their ideas on paper or on tape. There is interest in histories of shops and businesses, accounts of families, hospitals, church groups, local societies, school life, buildings with unusual histories, local life, and outstanding members of the community. If you would like to contribute, contact Barbara Le Maistre (Editor), Anne Carolan (Assistant Editor) or Chrys Meader (Committee member) as soon as possible to discuss your ideas.

Plans for Heritage 5 include an article about 1988 residents who are arts/crafts people, which would also serve as a research resource for the future. Can members suggest residents or society members who are artists, writers, musicians or those in related fields. Recording sheets are available from Chrys Meader at the main Marrickville Branch Library. Please do not hesitate to fill in one for a neighbour, friend or relative and we will be in touch with them.

Barbara Le Maistre

Copies of Heritage 2, 3, and 4 are still available from Marrickville Library and all society functions. Heritage 1 is being reprinted.



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Tatt Shop*

*Specialising in 1930's to 50's  
Clothing, Lace, Fabric & Bric-a-brac*

Open Mon.-Fri. 10-6 Sat 10-5  
16-18 Brighton St, Petersham

Sue  
560 5087

## Marrickville's First Post Office

In July 1864, approval was given for the opening of a Post Office at Mrs Charlotte Lindsey Fairbairn's (nee Meek) premises in Addison Road, Marrickville, corner of Addison and Illawarra Roads. Apparently, arrangements were being made for a mail service between Newtown and Marrickville Post Offices as the Postmaster at Newtown reported that the distance between the two offices was two miles and suggested the following timetables for the mails: "Close at Newtown daily, Sundays excepted 10am. Arrive at Marrickville 10.30am. Leave Marrickville 2.30pm. Arrive Newtown 3pm.

Mrs Fairbairn was appointed Post Mistress on January 1, 1865 with a postal salary of £12 per annum; as sureties she named James Meek (father) market gardener and William Meek (brother) toll contractor of Newtown. The Post Mistress's husband, James Henry Fairbairn was a baker and the Post Office was conducted in the baker's shop. Later reports suggest that the office was little more than a posting office; a letter receiver was erected in the shop and stamps were sold over the counter.



Marrickville was described as a "scattered district". No doubt local letters not collected at the shop were delivered by the baker. By 1870 a twice daily letter delivery by letter carrier (postman) had been approved for Marrickville. Possibly the deliveries then were made from the Newtown Post Office. The Post Mistress received a portage allowance of £15 per annum for conveying letters between the Newtown and Marrickville Post Offices. Mrs Fairbairn's son, George Andrew, was a letter carrier and baker.

In 1882 Mrs Fairbairn declined taking management of money order and savings bank facilities due to her eyesight. Her service as Post Mistress lasted 17 years.

Les Fairbairn.

Sources: Marrickville Historical Collection, Australian Archives Post Office Files.

## New Members

R Hodges, Phil and Nada Dickinson.

## How to Subscribe

Its 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.