

MARRICKVILLE

HERITAGE SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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OUR NEXT MEETING An Evening on the Harbour

FRIDAY DECEMBER 30, 6.00 p.m.

DEPART FROM MAN-O-WAR STEPS

We take to the harbour to celebrate the new year. We'll be cruising on the yacht 'Silver Spray' on Friday evening December 30. Cost is \$15 and the cruise is suitable for everyone. Our boat will leave the Man-O-War steps (east side of the Opera House) at 6.00 p.m. and will return at 10.00 pm. Bring your own refreshments for a picnic supper on historic Clark Island. Please make your booking soon as numbers are strictly limited. Phone Anne Carolan on 406.4862.

1989 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3rd, 7.30 p.m.

Musical evening at Newtown featuring player pianos and dance music of the 20's and 30's.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25th, 10.30 a.m.

Visit to Lydham Hall, Bexley with talk on local history by Alderman Ron Rathbone.

SUNDAY, MARCH 12th, 10.00 a.m.

Guided tour of Sydney's Tank Stream.

SATURDAY, MARCH 18th, 10.30 a.m.

An illustrated address on the history of St. Peters by Laurel Horton.
TO BE CONFIRMED

FRIDAY, APRIL 21st

Heritage Concert

SATURDAY, APRIL 29th

Lunchtime cruise on Georges River

SATURDAY, MAY 27th

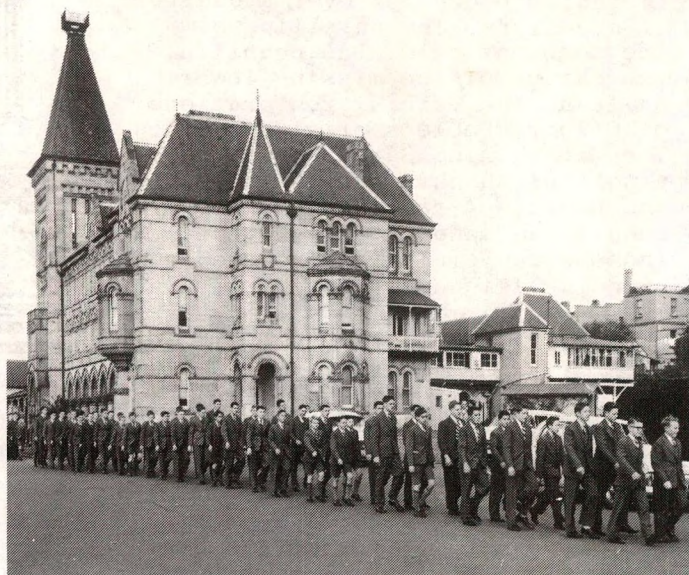
Visit to Tempe House

SATURDAY, JUNE 24th

Annual General Meeting

Heritage Watch

Due to commitments, Tony Deguara is unable to continue as chairman of the Heritage Watch Committee. Our thanks to Tony for the work he has put in over the past months. We are seeking a new chairman for this very important committee. Tony explains that the aims of the committee are twofold (a) to generally promote and foster public awareness of heritage within the municipality and (b) to monitor threatened heritage items and apply to the various government bodies for appropriate protection. Is any member interested in taking on this position?



Newington pupils marching to chapel about 1960. A new book is about to be published on the history of the college. See story back page.

COMING EVENTS Musical Memories

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3rd, 7.30 pm NEWTOWN

The first of our evening meetings for 1989 will have a musical theme. Once again Dennis Condon has invited us into his home at Newtown to enjoy his wonderful collection of player pianos and piano rolls. The evening will feature dance music of the '20s and '30s. Space is strictly limited so bookings are essential. Please phone Anne Carolan on 406.4862. A small donation (\$1, \$2) for the upkeep of the collection would be appreciated. Coffee or tea will be provided. Would members who can bring a plate please inform Anne.

Visit to Lydham Hall

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 25th, 10.30 a.m.

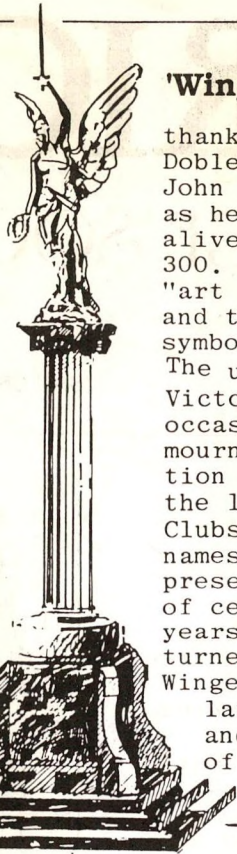
LYDHAM HALL, 18 LYDHAM AVE. BEXLEY.

Did you know that Rockdale Council has its own local Museum? It is Lydham Hall, a beautiful sandstone house built by wealthy butcher Joseph Davis in 1860 on the highest point of land between Cooks and Georges Rivers. It is a good example of the transition from simple colonial architecture to the more ornate mid-Victorian style. Popular historian Alderman Ron Rathbone will tell us the history of the house and the museum on our visit.

Welcome Home

At 11.00 am on 11.11.1988 the 'Winged Victory' statue was officially unveiled by Sir Thomas Daly and once again stood proudly on top of the memorial at Marrickville Town Hall. Two years of work, planning and a bit of nervous excitement culminated in this special day in the history of the Marrickville Municipality.

Sculptor, Alex Koloszy collected the remaining top half in November, 1987 from the Petersham Works Depot where the Winged Victory had hung in fading glory for over a quarter of a century. The unveiling saw the combination of the beautiful recreation of the missing lower half and the careful restoration of Gilbert Doble's original work. The Mayor, Ald. Barry Jones, gave a note of thanks to both Koloszy and Doble. A reply on Doble's behalf was made by John Hatton, M.P. whose wife Vera's family were long-standing friends of Doble. (It was



'Winged Victory'

thanks to Anne Carolan that the Doble connection was discovered). John Hatton made Doble or "Bertie" as he preferred to be called, come alive for the audience of about 300. As he so eloquently put it "art is the antithesis of war" and this is what the Winged Victory symbolises.

The unveiling of the original Winged Victory on 24th May, 1919 was an occasion of deep sorrow and mourning. The Bicentennial restoration unveiling recognised this with the laying of wreaths by R.S.L. Clubs. Relatives of those whose names appear on the memorial were present. However, it was also a day of celebration that, after all these years, the Winged Victory has returned home.

Winged Victory now gives a spectacular presence to Marrickville Road and is becoming a part of the fabric of the Municipality once again.

Chrys Meader

OUR LAST MEETING Bridging the Past

Marrickville Municipality can add another claim to fame to its list - we have one of the last remaining Whipple Truss bridges in the State. At our last meeting on Saturday, November 26th bridge expert

Dr Don Fraser introduced members to some of the more interesting bridges in our area. Perhaps our most notable bridge is the Long Cove Creek viaduct, a railway bridge at Lewisham. There are actually three iron/steel truss bridges on this site, each one added as the railway lines increased. The Whipple Truss, built in 1886 to replace the original stone arch viaduct, is one of the few in NSW and is classified by the National Trust. The Open Lattice Truss followed in the early 1890s and the Warren Truss was added in the 1920s. Another hidden treasure is Battle Bridge on Parramatta Road at Taverners Hill. Dr Fraser discovered that the original masonry bridge built pre-1885 is still in place underneath the six-lane highway! Our engineers and those responsible for bridge building argued for many years over the relative merits of British or American bridge construction and often the end result depended on the loyalties of the decision makers.

Christmas Cheer

Our annual Christmas picnic in Petersham Park was again a great success. Santa Claus was in excellent form and voice as usual and this year a new star emerged - Amy Needham, 98 years young, who gave a spirited rendition of the poem 'How Jimmy Tended The Baby'. The 15 children who joined in the fun appreciated sweets organised by Chrys Meader. Successful in the raffle were: 1. Margaret Sinclair, 2. Meg Sherwood and 3. Josephine Cashman. Thanks are due to Anne Carolan who organised the picnic.

Newington School Days

Society member Dr Peter Swain has written a new history of Newington College which is now at the publication stage. Entitled A QUARTER PAST THE CENTURY it covers the story of the school from its foundation in 1863. This year Newington is celebrating its 125th Anniversary, and the book concentrates on the human side of the school's history, mentioning hundreds of teachers and pupils whose achievements and exploits have contributed to the story. A handsome, hard-bound volume of some 250 pages, there are numerous photographs and a large appendix. Advance orders are now being taken at the pre-publication price of \$20 (a significant saving on the cost of later orders). Cheques (to "Newington College") should be sent to - The Bursar, Newington College, Stanmore 2048, (Postage and packing \$3 extra).

Hearth & Home

Hearth & Home, a major new exhibition by the Historic Houses Trust of NSW opened at Elizabeth Bay House on December 5th. The exhibition is a rare insight into the domestic lives of women in NSW and shows the extraordinary range of arts and crafts employed by women to furnish and decorate their homes and occupy their idle moments. Hearth & Home presents journals, pictures, photographs and original objects to recreate the lives of our grandmothers and great grandmothers.

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.