

MARRICKVILLE

HERITAGE SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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OUR NEXT MEETING Visit to Lydham Hall

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 25, 10.30 a.m.
LYDHAM HALL, 18 LYDHAM AVE. BEXLEY

Did you know that Rockdale Council has its own local Museum? It is in 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 Georgian colonial-style architecture to the more ornate mid-Victorian pattern. We are fortunate indeed that popular historian Alderman Ron Rathbone has agreed to tell us something of the history of the house and the museum on our visit. Meet at Lydham Hall at 10.30 am but we need to know numbers beforehand. Please phone Chrys Meader (560.9333 Ext.282) or Anne Carolan (406.4862).

Lydham Hall, built in 1860, is now Rockdale Council's local museum and we will be visiting it at our next meeting.



Heritage 1 Reissued

Do you have a complete set of Heritage? You may well not have Heritage No.1 (December 1984) because it has been out of print for some time. A second print run of 100 copies will be available at the end of the month and sold at \$4 a copy. The journal includes the following: Anne Carolan, "The Gannons of Tempe" (completed in Heritage No.2); Richard Cashman, "Early Land Grants in Marrickville"; Barbara LeMaistre, "Up the Street" or Down the Street" -- "Shopping Locally"; Chrys Meader, "Cemeteries of Marrickville" (featuring St. Stephen's, Camperdown and Petersham Cemetery); Gary Nicholls, "Fowler's Pottery 1837-

COMING EVENTS

Underground Expedition

TANK STREAM EXCURSION SUNDAY MARCH 12th
at 10.a.m.

We have booked 30 places for this expedition into underground Sydney so it is essential to book in advance through Chrys Meader at 560.9333 Ext.282. One party of 15 will depart at 10 a.m. and a second at 10.20 a.m. The tour lasts 40 minutes. It is advisable to bring a rain or spray-jacket to avoid dripping water. Apart from an eight-rung portable stairway, it is all level pegging. The meeting place for both groups is at Curtin Place off Pitt Street, next to Australia Square. Look for the prominently displayed Water Board Tank Stream Tour signs. The time of meeting is 15 minutes before your tour; 9.45 am and 10.05 am. The cost is adults \$5; pensioners \$2; children under 15, free. Since the Tank Stream is now a storm-water drain, the tour may have to be cancelled if there is heavy rain. If in doubt ring 516.2685 on the morning of the tour.

1975" (completed in Heritage No.3) and Robert Thompson, "Mapping the History of St. Peter's and Tempe". Copies of Heritage No.1, and the other published volumes, are available at every Society meeting at the Petersham Town Hall or you can obtain them from Chrys Meader at the Marrickville Library.

More Winged Victory Spoons

With the re-erection of the Winged Victory Statue the popular spoons have been selling rapidly. Another order of spoons has been placed and will be available in the near future. They, too, are available at every Society meeting at the Petersham Town Hall or from the Secretary for \$4 each.

Covering Dulwich Hill, Enmore, Lewisham, Marrickville, Petersham, St Peters, Stanmore, Sydenham, Tempe and parts of Camperdown, Hurlstone Park and Newtown

COMING EVENTS

Residents Rally on Airport

AIRPORT MEETING - TUESDAY FEBRUARY 21,
7.30 p.m. MARRICKVILLE TOWN HALL.

Although much of our Suburb was built before aeroplanes were invented - Sydney's airport, its attendant industries and road traffic severely affect our present lifestyle. Tourism is now considered Australia's biggest growth industry; air traffic is increasing at the rate of 7% per year. The federal airports corporation forecasts that the present number of passengers - four million per year - will increase to 30 million by year 2010. Marrickville and other suburbs bounding Kingsford-Smith Airport will suffer disproportionately the negative side-effects of this 'growth industry'.

Marrickville Airport Watch - with the support of Marrickville Heritage Society and Resident Groups from Summer Hill, Petersham-Lewisham, Stanmore, and Sydenham-St.Peter's-Tempe - is calling a meeting to receive new information about the airport problem and to suggest solutions.

Our State Government, Liberal and National Party politicians suggest short-term solutions - e.g. encroaching further on Botany Bay and abolishing the curfew (which at least ensures five hours of sleep for residents). Most disturbing is the suggestion of another north-south runway, which would channel more jumbo jets over our rooftops. You are urged to come along and participate. Speakers will include Federal M.P.s, an acoustics engineer and representatives of local residents and the Councils' Monitoring Committee.

Details from Marrickville Airport Watch (559.5502, 559.9928, P.O. Box 132 Newtown 2042).

Pocket Playhouse

Geoff Ostling is researching the history of the Pocket Playhouse, which grew out of a group called the St.Peters Players, for Heritage 5. Did any of our members act at the Pocket Playhouse? Do any members remember plays they saw there? Geoff would like to hear from you. Ring him on 339.8522 (business hours) or on 568.3029 (at home).

New Members

Keith and Lila Levitt, Marrickville; Paul Hemphill and Adele Hugill, Newtown; Mrs Nan Bosler, Collaroy Plateau; Lynne Greenwood, Marrickville; Graham Short, Petersham; Charles Xuereb, Marrickville; Mr and Mrs Johnson, Marrickville; John Sawkins, Marrickville; Leanne Miranda, Marrickville; Vic McGrath, Petersham.

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.



Society members Alan Lewis from Mortdale and Dorothy Gaston from Marrickville (foreground) enjoying life on the ocean waves. Behind them are Peg Simpson and Peter and Mary Ramm.

Photo : Geoff Ostling

"Pure Magic - What a wonderful way to end the Bicentennial Year!" This was the verdict of many Society members and friends who attended the evening harbour cruise on December 30. Although some of us were feeling slightly timid at the Man-o-War Steps when we discovered that the Sea Spray really was a sailing ship - and not quite as big as the Queen Mary - we soon settled down as we passed around Garden Island and entered the quiet waters of the inlets and bays of the eastern suburbs.

After a very pleasant two hours we alighted at Clarke Island for a hearty picnic and then, as the sky turned a glorious pink and the city lights came on, we reboarded the Sea Spray and cruised up past the Opera House and under the Harbour Bridge as far as Darling Harbour, marvelling at our good fortune to be out on the harbour on a night which seemed to be 'pure magic'. We arrived back at the Man-o-War Steps safe and sound, and full of thanks to Anne Carolan who had arranged the cruise.

Geoff Ostling

Speaking Personally: Tempe Pioneer Remembered

ANNE CAROLAN WRITES:

I am a great great-granddaughter of Michael Gannon (See Heritage Nos 1 and 2) and I was invited to take part in a Bicentennial tree planting ceremony at Hurstville Public School. Michael Gannon gave two acres of land for the establishment of a public school in 1875. The district of Gannon's Forest then had 100 children. The first school was completed in 1876 for £600 and was named Hurstville Public School. The school on Forest Road (formerly Gannon's Forest Road) has vast grounds with numerous trees planted many years ago. However, more were needed at the front and I chose to take along a grevillea robusta ('Silky Oak') which should grow quickly into a very tall and beautiful tree, giving shade to the playground and attracting the native birds. The ceremony was reminiscent of Arbor Days of old. Now the children of the primary school are to be responsible for watering the small trees, and, hopefully, more will be planted each year.

I did not find any of the names mentioned in the list of members.