

MARRICKVILLE

HERITAGE SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



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The Cooks River Dam, which was built by the Government in 1838. The annual Cooks River Festival will be held this month.

OUR NEXT MEETING Bicentennial Replay

SATURDAY APRIL 29, 10.30 AM
MARRICKVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOL

Society member Marilyn Kelly, principal of Marrickville Public School, Chapel Street, has kindly made available video facilities so we can view two short Bicentennial videos. The first is our Heritage Picnic and the other is the Heritage Concert at St Brigid's. Marilyn will also give a short talk on the history of the school. Morning tea provided. Meet at the school.

Annual Heritage Concert

FRIDAY APRIL 21, 8.15PM
ST BRIGID'S CHURCH, MARRICKVILLE



Our annual Heritage Week concert at St Brigid's Church, corner of Marrickville and Livingstone Roads, Marrickville promises a wealth of musical talent for your enjoyment. Members and friends welcome. Conclude the evening with a 'cuppa' Phone bookings: 569 9928 and 569 2043 after 6pm. Family \$8, single \$6 concession \$4.

COMING EVENTS Cruising the Georges River

SATURDAY MAY 27, 10 AM - 3 PM.

Book now for our scenic cruise upon the beautiful Georges River to historic Botany Bay. We will be travelling on the M.V. Mirabel and there will be an historic commentary as we go along. Details next issue. Bookings, with payment strictly in advance to Anne Carolan (406 4862) or Chrys Meader (560 9333 Ext

Cooks River Festival

SUNDAY APRIL 30, 10 AM-4 PM
BEAMAN PARK, UNDERCLIFFE

This year the annual Cooks River Festival will be opened by the Minister for the Environment, Mr Tim Moore. The festival will feature historical bus tours, entertainment and displays.

Photographic Workshop

SATURDAY MAY 13, 9 AM-12 PM
LYNDHURST, 61 DARGHAN ST, GLEBE

The Historic Houses Trust is holding a practical workshop on how to care for your old photographs and works on paper including advice on how to care and how to frame precious photographs and legal documents, diaries, books and letters. Bring a 'problem' item for discussion. Cost is \$30. Morning tea provided. Enquiries 692 8366.



OUR LAST MEETING St Peters on Show

At our last meeting Society member Laurel Horton presented an excellent audio-visual on the history of St Peters, its church and cemetery. She also brought along old newspaper cuttings, photographs and church records related to St Peters. Laurel announced that a second historic walk through St Peters, following the successful Bicentennial walk (pictured above), will be held in June.

Society Goes Down the Drain

Intrepid members of the Society donned hard hats and rubber boots for the Water Board's fascinating, if brief, tour of the Tank Stream on Sunday March 12. Once a beautiful stream, it was Sydney's first water supply. The stream is now a series of sandstone, brick and concrete channels but it still wends its way under the Central Business District.

New Threat to Wolli Creek

The Wolli Creek Preservation Society has reported that:

"In 1988, following a campaign by environmental groups and residents, the incoming state Liberal Government announced that almost all the land in the (Wolli Creek) Valley previously zoned for free-way construction would be "guaranteed permanent preservation for community enjoyment".

Despite this, the DMR, with the government's backing, has now announced that it will present in May an Environmental Impact Statement on two options for alternative road links from Beverly Hills to St Peters. One involves a tunnel beneath the Earlwood ridge, leaving the Valley untouched. The other is a barely concealed revival of the old Wolli Valley Freeway option. It is the DMR's preferred option.

This is a partly elevated six lane freeway immediately to the north of the East Hills rail line on the floor of the Valley. It would destroy the recreational value of the only remaining bushland in the region. It requires re-routing the creek through most of the Valley, destroying the wetlands and mangroves (and hence the crucial birdlife corridor)."

For further information contact the Wolli Creek Preservation Society, P.O. Box 270 Earlwood 2206.

Coming Up in Heritage 5

Heritage 5, the next issue of our journal will be published shortly. Here are two short excerpts from articles contained in the journal.

"When the Marrickville Town Hall was rebuilt in 1922 it contained three halls for hire. The main one, 92 feet by 65 feet with a beautifully sprung floor, was booked on average five nights a week. The Strollers, Bert Gibb and son Hector, ran dances there three nights weekly, which were so successful that the Friday night proceeds were given to charities. The local tramway inspector called in during the evening to ascertain whether extra tramcars were needed to take the dancers to Sydenham Station." From Ballroom Dancing by Phyllis McCorquodale.

From Richard Cashman's article on horseracing in mid-19th century Marrickville comes this account of a meeting at the Petersham racecourse in Bell's Life 1845:

"We scarcely ever witnessed a scene of such general excitement pervading all classes, ramifying through all grades of society, from the high-mettled baronet, and his long line of ancestry, to the itinerant tinker, to common council man who knoweth not his sire... The crowd upon the course far excelled anything of the kind we have ever witnessed at a Colonial Meeting, though notwithstanding the density of the throng, order was for some time kept by the Police Force. The whiskey, however at the close of the day overcame rayson (reason) and to work they went. Stones were picked up, fences broken down, and points of honour decided in the approved Tipperary style till ... well-appointed men dispersed the rabble."

Special Heritage Offer

Now that Heritage 1 has been reprinted, we are selling sets of Heritage Vols 1-4 for only \$15, a saving of \$4. Why not buy an extra set for yourself or a neighbour? The special offer lasts until the end of June.

Greetings from Marrick

Our links with Marrick, North Yorkshire continue. Barbara Le Maistre recently received from Mr Ian Law, president of the Marrick Institute, an album of photographs and a copy of E.M. Ellerton's A Walk Up the Parks: a dales childhood, which have been placed in the Marrickville Library. In return, our president Richard Cashman has sent a number of postcards and a complete set of Heritage journals to the Institute.

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.