

MARRICKVILLE

HERITAGE SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



Postal Address PO Box 415 Marrickville 2204
ISSN 0818-0695 Vol 6 No 6 Dec 1989-Jan 1990

STOP PRESS...STOP PRESS...STOP PRESS
Celebrate Australia Day with the
Society at a dinner at the new
restaurant at Newington Inn, one of
our oldest hotels. Date: January 26.
Time to be announced. Bookings:
Shirley 569 1768 or Judith 560 1751



Santa and
the children
at our
Christmas
Picnic in
Petersham
Park.

OUR NEXT MEETING Sydney Harbour by Night



SATURDAY DECEMBER 30, 6PM
EVENING ON THE HARBOUR

Places are filling fast for our annual harbour cruise. If you would like to join the society on this holiday interlude book now! We will be cruising on the yacht 'Silver Spray'. The cost is \$20 per head and the cruise suits all ages. The yacht leaves Man-O-War Steps on the east side of the Opera House at 6PM and returns at 10PM. Bring your own refreshments for the picnic on Clark Island. Numbers are limited. Book by phoning Anne Carolan (406-4862) or Geoff Ostling (568-3029).

COMING EVENTS Great Pianists of the Past

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 2 1990, 8PM SHARP

Hear the music of the great pianists of the past! For our first evening meeting for 1990 Dennis Condon has once again invited us to join him at his Newtown home to enjoy his wonderful collection of grand pianos which will perform the music of great pianists right before your eyes. This is a unique experience not to be missed. Numbers are strictly limited so bookings are essential. A donation of \$1-2 for the tuning of the instruments would be appreciated. Coffee or tea will be provided. The society will provide supper. Bookings Geoff (568-3029)

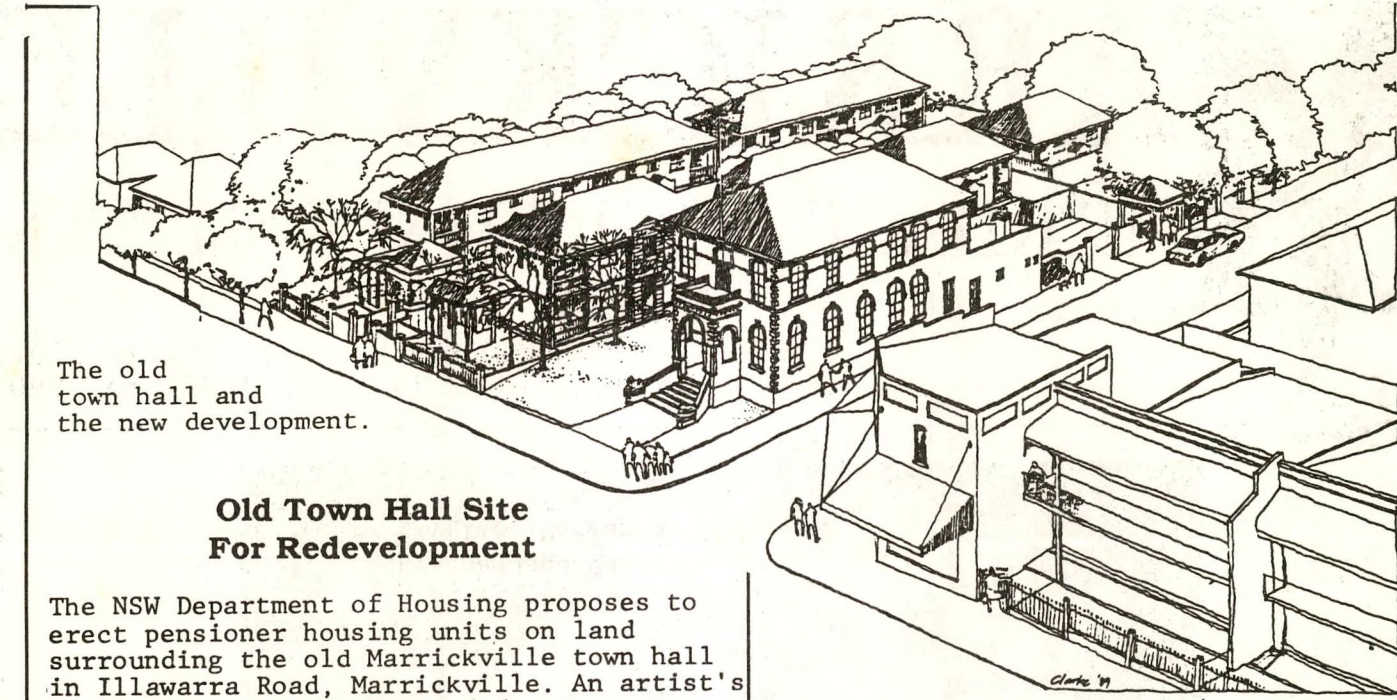
Christmas Cheer

Our Christmas picnic in Petersham Park was a lovely afternoon of merriment. Children AND adults joined in the fun. Our thanks to Paula Gard and Shirley Hilyard for their hard work and a special thanks to Santa, seen here with the children. The society would like to wish all our members and their families a very happy Christmas and we hope to see you all at our meetings in the new year.

Our Christmas Party will be on Tuesday December 12 at the home of our president Geoff Ostling in Petersham. Please bring either a plate of food or a couple of bottles - to share. Drinks will be served in the back courtyard from 6.30PM and dinner will be at about 7.30PM. Children are welcome and will have their own party upstairs on the front balcony. They can bring a favourite video as well. Please phone Geoff or Pekka (568-3029) or Shirley (569-1768) for details.

"Demon" Spofforth Revealed

Noted cricketer Geoff Lawson launched "Demon" Spofforth, a new book by our former president Richard Cashman, at the Cricketers Club of NSW on December 5. "Demon" Spofforth is the first biography ever written of this remarkable Australian cricketer who made cricket history and became a legend. He spearheaded the great 1882 Australian victory and so began the famous Ashes tradition. The book is available from NSW University Press at a cost of \$34.95. Inquiries 697 5452.



The old town hall and the new development.

Old Town Hall Site For Redevelopment

The NSW Department of Housing proposes to erect pensioner housing units on land surrounding the old Marrickville town hall in Illawarra Road, Marrickville. An artist's perspective of the proposed development appears above. The two-storey unit dwellings were designed by architects Orwell & Peter Phillips of 541 George St, Sydney. The future of the old town hall itself is still undecided, however, the architects have prepared a comprehensive conservation study which recommends the restoration and preservation of the building especially its 19th century elements.

Built in 1879, the old town hall was one of the earliest municipal town halls built in Sydney and it is the oldest civic building in the Marrickville Municipality. At the time the town hall was built it was located in the heart of the village of Marrickville. Despite alterations and vandalism, the building retains much of the character of its second stage of development (when another storey was added).

The study says the buildings future use should be compatible with its proper conservation. "The place should generally be presented as it appeared in the late 19th century." It also states that no new work or activity should be carried out "which will detract from or obscure physical evidence" of the buildings original elements.

It is hoped that a suitable use can be found for the town hall building and that its restoration will begin soon. We will keep you informed. Next newsletter: the history of the town hall building.

New Members

Gus Sharpe and Helen Macartney, Stanmore; Karilyn Brown, Tony Strachan and Cato Strachan-Brown, Marrickville; Margaret Bonner and Ian Bignall, Dulwich Hill; Paul Greenfield, Stanmore; Joan Hatton, Kogarah; Sam Kakaivalu, Stanmore.

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. The Heritage Society holds regular meetings on the fourth Saturday of every month.

OUR LAST MEETING The Revival of Tempe House

Tempe House will be restored as a prestigious VIP centre for the Qantas group, according to architect Clive Lucas who addressed our last meeting at Petersham Town Hall on Saturday November 25. More than 80 people, including members of neighbouring societies, attended. Clive told us that Qantas plans to make Tempe House available for public use. He expects the restoration work will take about two years.

Tempe was designed in 1836 by John Verge. The interior of the house is largely intact although the back has been modified, Clive said. There are two large reception rooms at the front which are "the glory of the house" and the joinery throughout is particularly fine cedar. Clive has restored other Verge-designed homes including Elizabeth Bay House, Lyndhurst at Glebe and Tusculum at Potts Point. Clive has a great understanding and affection for Verge's work. Surprisingly, he said, Verge was a builder who appears to have had no architectural training.

Clive showed slides of his projects and gave an in-depth and enthralling talk on his work in restoration. The society thanks him for giving so generously of his time and expertise. Thanks also to Evelyn Watkins for her organisation.

Birds of Wolli Creek

The Wolli Creek Preservation Society has published a new booklet by Neil Rankin, Birds of Wolli Creek. The book details birds observed in the Wolli Creek area over the past 50 years and reveals the best spots for bird watching. Vincent Serventy writes in the book's forward:

"The key to convincing a wider public in the need for the preservation of this largest section of urban bushland between Sydney and Botany Bay is to make them interested in what they will lose if the area is destroyed."

If you would like a copy write to the Wolli Creek Preservation Society, P.O. Box 270, Earlwood 2206. Cost is \$5 plus \$1 postage and packaging.