

MARRICKVILLE

HERITAGE SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



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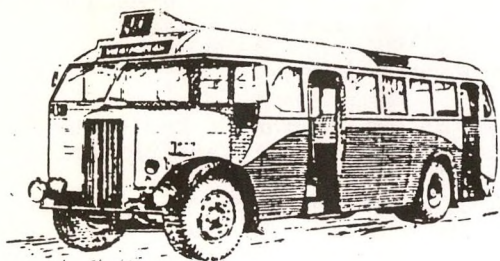
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OUR NEXT MEETING Magical Mystery Tour

SATURDAY APRIL 28, 10AM SHARP
MEET AT PETERSHAM TOWN HALL

Roll up, roll up for the Mystery Tour! Even if you have lived in Marrickville all your life we are sure our Magical Mystery Tour will reveal some points of interest you've not seen before.

Can you pinpoint the site of the old brickpits or the Chinese market garden? Do you know where the World War II air disaster took place? Did you know there were once cattleyards near Petersham Town Hall? What is the story of Wardell Road? How did the Warren View Hotel get its name? All this and more will be revealed as we tour the municipality in an historic bus, taking a route mapped out by our Local Studies Librarian Chrys Meader. There will be drinks and comfort stops along the way and we expect to return to Petersham Town Hall around 1pm. Bookings to Ian on 51 3027. Those members who booked at the last meeting need not rebook. Cost is \$8.



From the President - Society Finances

Every member should now have received a copy of Heritage 5 and there have been some very nice letters congratulating the authors and editors on the production of a quality publication. Unfortunately it has depleted the funds of the Society. First we hope that members will encourage friends to purchase copies at \$8 each. Second, as the cost of family and pensioner memberships have not changed for a number of years, it may be necessary to raise the annual subscriptions at the next AGM. Third we hope to find a local firm (or firms) to sponsor this newsletter in return for advertising space. The cost of 11 issues is approximately \$1000 each year.

GEOFF OSTLING.



Weekend in Shoalhaven

All those who visit Meroogal cannot fail to be enchanted by it. However, our tour of this historic house is just one highlight of the Shoalhaven weekend. Travelling by bus, we will leave Petersham Town Hall on Saturday morning May 12, stopping at Berry for morning tea. Then we will head for Greenwell Point, travelling via Terrara, Numbaa, Comerong Island and Jindyandy Mill. After a B.Y.O. lunch we will proceed to Jervis Bay for the afternoon where we will visit the Lady Denman Park and Museum. Then back to the Leprechaun Motel, Nowra. We will have drinks and view the local museum as guests of the Shoalhaven Historical Society, followed by dinner.

On Sunday we will take a scenic drive along the Shoalhaven River before arriving for our guided tour of Meroogal. After morning tea we will visit the HMAS Albatross Museum. Then we will head up the Cambewarra Mountain to historic Kangaroo Valley where we will stop for lunch and then return to Sydney via Bowral and Berrima, arriving around 6pm. All inclusive cost is \$120. Bookings to Judith 560 1751 or Shirley 569 1768.

100 Not Out for Amy Needham

Congratulations to our oldest member, Amy Needham, on her 100th birthday on May 3. All Heritage Society members are invited to attend a special service of thanksgiving at St Clement's Church, Marrickville at 10am on Sunday April 29, and then join Amy and her family for a centenary birthday morning tea in the church hall. Amy has lived in Illawarra Road, Marrickville since 1917.



Louisa Lawson signed this portrait of herself.

OUR LAST MEETING Pioneer of Women's Suffrage

Was Louisa Lawson the mother of women's suffrage? That's the view of Lorna Ollif, author of Louisa Lawson's biography, who spoke at our meeting on March 24. Lorna decided to write Louisa's biography because she believed Louisa had been maligned in most biographies of her son Henry Lawson (written by men, of course, says Lorna).

Louisa was undoubtedly one of the most influential women of her time and her magazine The Dawn, which ran for 14 years around the turn of the century, aired many topical and often controversial issues concerning women in Australia and overseas.

Born in 1848, Louisa was the daughter of Henry and Harriet Albury and she grew up on the goldfields of NSW. She married Peter Larsen, a Norwegian sailor, and they moved to Grenfell. Louisa had five children: Henry, Charles, Peter, Gertrude and Annette. A talented writer herself, Louisa encouraged Henry to take up poetry and supported him throughout his life. When Louisa moved to Sydney with her children she became a tailoress to support them but it was not long before she became involved in the literary scene and the burgeoning labour movement and established The Dawn.

After she closed the magazine in 1904 Louisa moved to Marrickville where she spent the later years of her life (see March 1990 newsletter). Louisa died in 1920 and is buried at Rookwood.

Unfortunately Lorna's book is out of print at the moment but she is negotiating for a reprint. Thanks to Lorna for a fascinating insight into a remarkable woman.

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.

More About Meroogal

Meroogal was built in 1885 for the Thorburn family. Although well known in Nowra, the family held no major place in our history. They were a genteel family who slowly adapted their way of life from the 19th to the 20th century.

Four generations of the family lived in Meroogal. They were largely women, the house being passed on through the female line of the family. Each generation adopted the housekeeping and homemaking practices of the previous generation and added new techniques and new ways of their own. By today's standards, they resisted change tending to patch and mend rather than replace.

The house and its exceptionally rich collection were purchased by the Historic Houses Trust in 1985, and the tradition of patching and mending has continued. The mellowness remains and the visitor can see through the layers of each generation to reveal the history of this most fascinating house.

From the President -

GREETINGS FROM MUDGEES

Country member Norman McVicker would have liked to have attended Lorna Ollif's talk on the life of Louisa Lawson. As most members will know, Norman was responsible for the restoration of Eurunderee Public School near Mudgee, first opened on 2 October 1876 as a result of a petition prepared by Louisa.

Norman was recently named Australian of the Year in the Mudgee district for his work at the school.

Fellow Lawson mate Brendan Dunne has been seriously ill in Royal Prince Alfred Hospital. He is now back in Mudgee and we wish him a speedy recovery.

NOT TOO YOUNG AT 89!

Society member Commander Lesley Brooks will be among the veterans returning to Gallipoli to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the first Anzac Day. Commander was born in 1900 and joined the navy at the age of 14, soon after World War I was declared. but he was too young to fight on the Gallipoli peninsula in 1915. However, he was on board one of the ships which provided naval support and was at the signing of the Turkish armistice in Constantinople in 1918.

GEOFF OSTLING.

South Head Rescue Attempt

Mrs S. Pinson of Manly Vale writes: "I am researching my family history and have found an ancestor was drowned while trying to rescue another in the ocean at South Head. At the time of the incident he was living at Stanmore.

"The attempted rescue took place on December 26 1902. The ancestor who drowned attempting the rescue was Henry Sherwood, he was stationed in Port Jackson on a Pilot Steamship, and tried to save Richard Walsh from the waters at South Head."

Does any member remember this incident, newspaper reports or stories about it?