

MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY

Covering Dulwich Hill, Enmore, Lewisham,
Sydenham, Tempe and parts of Newtown,

Marrickville, Petersham, St Peters, Stanmore,
Camperdown and Hurlstone Park.



OUR NEXT MEETING Diving into History

SATURDAY MAY 25, 10.30AM
AMENITIES ROOM, PETERSHAM TOWN HALL

Logan Apperley, university lecturer in civil engineering, champion sailor, and scuba diver instructor, is also an enthusiastic wreck diver and has dived many of the accessible wrecks on the NSW coast. "The experience of swimming over decks and along passageways once trod by men, long since dead, is eerie and fascinating," says Logan.

At our next meeting, Logan will talk on a recent diving expedition to the south-west Coral Sea. During this trip two previously undiscovered wrecks were located, the most significant of which was the merchant ship *Cato*. This was the ship carrying Matthew Flinders and his precious maps and charts to England after his decision to replace the *Investigator* with a more seaworthy vessel. The *Cato*, together with her escort vessel the *Porpoise* were wrecked on an uncharted reef now known as Wreck Reef.

Logan will discuss the methods used to locate the *Cato*, what was found, and how Flinders leadership and seamanship saved all 92 shipwrecked sailors on that remote atoll 187 years ago.

Dinner at Parliament House

Society members were disappointed when the dinner at Parliament House had to be postponed at short notice because of the forthcoming state elections on May 25. Andrew Retshaug's secretary has assured us that another date will be set as soon as Parliament resumes, in June or July.

"The Inundations at Marrickville: Rescuing the Homeless" shows the Marrickville Floods of 1889 which devastated the area. Worst hit was the Tramvale Estate, built on a mudflat. Read about the Tramvale scandal in *Heritage 6* (The above illustration is reproduced in *Marrickville From Rural Outpost To Inner City* by Richard Cashman and Chrys Meader.)

Make a Gift of *Heritage 6*

By now all members should have received their copies of *Heritage 6*, either with their newsletter or by mail. You may purchase additional copies of *Heritage 6* for family or friends at all Society meetings. Cost is \$8. We have a special offer of a set of *Heritage 3, 4, 5* and *6* for \$25. It is an excellent gift for residents or former residents of the municipality.

COMING EVENTS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

All members are urged to attend our annual general meeting on Saturday June 22 at 10.30am in the Amenities Room of Petersham Town Hall. It is not only a chance to catch up on the Society's activities over the past year, it is also your opportunity to have a say in the direction of the Society.

Office bearers for the coming Society year will be elected at this meeting. Nominations are called for the following positions: President, Senior Vice-President, Junior Vice President, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer, three Executive Members, and the positions of Newsletter Editor and Journal Editor. Nominations can be submitted in writing prior to the meeting or may be made at the meeting.

Gold Fever Grips the Society

The first signs of gold on our trip to Hill End were the autumn colours of the trees outside the old gold town. Some of us were lucky enough to find the real thing the following day in the aptly named Golden Gully. A group of 30 members travelled on April 20-21 by bus to the Hill End historic site, north of Bathurst, to stay in the historic Royal Hotel.

The Royal Hotel gave cosy, if old-fashioned, accommodation and after dinner we heard some reminiscences provided by Gwen Eyre, a Society member whose grandfather William Eyre took the licence in 1897. The family stayed until 1967.

Other highlights were the mine inspection led by local miner Malcolm Drinkwater, which included a 9-ladder climb up a restored mine shaft and gold panning at Tambaroora, where the lucky ones panned a few 'colours'. Once as prosperous as Hill End, the town of Tambaroora is marked by only a few piles of bricks, a chimney and blackberry bushes.

OUR LAST MEETING Auspicious Plots

Question: What do the author of *Dot & the Kangaroo*, the writers **Henry Lawson** and **Henry Kendall**, **Fanny Durack**, the first Australian Olympic gold medal winner, and **George Sargeant**, the inventor of Sargeant's Pies have in common?

Answer: They are all buried at Waverley Cemetery, which we visited on our last excursion.

We saw the vaults of **George Johnston** and **Thomas Rowley**, both members of the NSW Corps and two of the earliest land owners in our municipality, the monuments erected to the memory of **Willem Paling**, Mayor of Petersham 1881-2 and founder of a famous music store, and of **Theodore Anthony Clarke** (brother of Marcus Clarke) who built Brockleigh in Livingstone Road, Marrickville (since demolished).

The excursion concluded with a picnic lunch and organ recital in the newly restored St Marys church Waverley. Our thanks to Ken, Win and Alexander Williams who were our guides for the tour of the cemetery, David Pitt-Owen and Fr Terry Dicks for the tour of St Marys, and to the Bus & Truck Museum and our driver David Staggs.

- Geoff Ostling.

A Grave Look at History

The Anglican Church at St Peters will have an open afternoon on Saturday May 11 from 1pm. An audio-visual on the church and the history of St Peters will be shown at 1pm and 3.15pm. There will be guided tours of the graveyard at 1.30pm and 3.30pm. Michael Deasey, organist at St Andrews Cathedral will give an organ recital at 2.30pm.

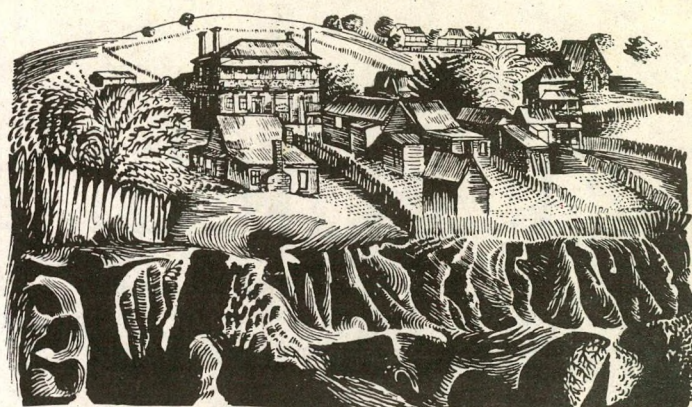
**KRISTINA
CARTER**

PEN & INK WITH
WATERCOLOURS
& ACRYLICS
May 1 - June 2

**MARY REIBEY
INTERIORS
& GALLERY**



224 ENMORE ROAD, ENMORE
(02) 516 4902



From Hillendiana by Donald Friend.

We had a great weekend. Thanks to Geoff Ostling for his superb organisation and to David and Gail Bastable of the Royal Hotel.

- David Hilyard.

THOUGHTS OF HOME

Former principal of Marrickville Public School Bevan Wilson has written to the society expressing his dismay at the theft of the lions from the old Marrickville Town Hall.

"From 1975-79, some five years, I was principal of the public school that occupied sites in Illawarra Road and Chapel Street. Over that period we averaged over 1300 pupils, a staff of some 60 teachers, and approximately 35 nationalities amongst the pupils. At that stage 75% of the children were of Greek origin," writes Bevan. "I have fond memories of the children, teachers and parents of that period. A small poem is enclosed that perhaps indicates some of the emotions abroad at that time."

Two lions guard the steps I'm told,
Of a building painted marigold,
It stands aloof above the grey
Of factory yard and disarray.

Yet in the houses round it sleep
The children of a race that keeps
Its vision still of ancient land,
Where Zeus and Leda's daughter sang.

Within this city's changing measure,
Parents keep their flocks together
Until both youth and spirit fade,
Then see their sons step from their shade.

Now sombre garbed the old ones fret,
For temples, cyprus groves and nets
Of fish drawn slowly from the sea -
Old hearts return home constantly.

But hope of change there cannot be,
These terraces for olive trees,
Nor chance to sense sweet Athens still,
Till Helen comes to Marrickville.

How to Subscribe

It's only \$12 for individuals, \$18 for households and institutions and \$6 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 valid for the Society year from July 1 each year. The Heritage Society holds regular meetings on the fourth Saturday of every month. Write to P.O. Box 415 Marrickville. Enquiries to Geoff on 568 3029.