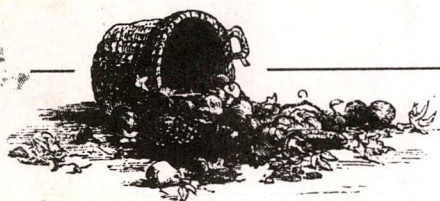


MARRICKVILLE

HERITAGE SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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MEMBERS' EVENING "Pot Luck" for Christmas TUESDAY DECEMBER 18, 7PM MERRYDALE, PETERSHAM

Celebrate Christmas in the grand Victorian manner at our members' evening. Our "pot luck" dinner this year will be held at the home of David and Robyn Pitt-Owen in Petersham. The restoration of their grand Victorian home Merrydale was featured in *Heritage 5* and the Pitt-Owens have kindly invited members to come and take a closer look.

Drinks will be served at 7pm and dinner at 8pm. A non-alcoholic punch and a leg of ham will be provided by the executive. Members are asked to contribute to the "pot luck" spread by bringing a plate of food or two bottles. Please advise Geoff on 568 3029 if you plan to come.

COMING EVENTS Evening Harbour Cruise

Please note that all places for our evening harbour cruise on Sunday December 30 have been filled. If you wish to place your name on the waiting list for late cancellations please contact Anne on 417 4862. Cost is \$20 per head.

For those who will be joining us, 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 a twilight picnic on Clark Island. Inquiries to Anne on 417 4862.

COMING EVENTS Australia Day Dinner SATURDAY JANUARY 26, 7PM FOR 7.30PM DARLEY STREET THAI (REAR OF BOTANY VIEW HOTEL), 597 KING STREET, NEWTOWN

Marrickville is one of the most culturally diverse municipalities in Sydney so it seems fitting that we should celebrate Australia Day in one of our ethnic restaurants. Last year we 'went Italian' and this year we travel to Asia to sample the delights of Thailand at the Darley Street Thai. The restaurant is located at the rear of the Botany View Hotel, a marvellous Art Deco pub that was recently refurbished. It was praised in the most recent *Good Food Guide* for its stylish setting and imaginative approach to Thai food. Cost is \$25 per head (set menu) plus drinks. Bookings to David on 550-9379. Limited transport can be arranged.

Season's Greetings

This is our last newsletter for the year. We would like to wish all our members and their families a very happy Christmas and a prosperous new year. Thankyou for your support during 1990 and we look forward to seeing you in 1991. The next newsletter will be published in February 1991.

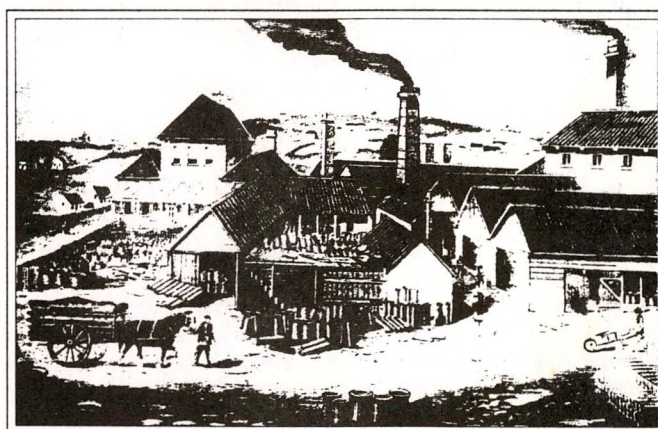
Rural Outpost to Inner City

The suburbs of Marrickville have witnessed more change than most other municipalities in Australia. The land, originally occupied by the Cadigal band of Aborigines, became the domain of gentleman farmers and others following rural pursuits. Market gardens, orchards, dairies and pig farms proliferated in the 19th century, only to be replaced in the 20th century by steel and textile mills, commerce and light industry.

The people who live in Marrickville have also changed. Wealthy landowners gave way to an urbanised working class frequently of Irish-Catholic descent. They in turn have made way for migrants from Europe and Asia. Suburbs that were once bastions of conservatism became Labor strongholds and even that loyalty is now under challenge.

In their new book, *Marrickville Rural Outpost to Inner City*, authors Richard Cashman and Chrys Meader (both former executive members of the Society) have traced the social history of Marrickville and the former municipalities of Newtown, Camperdown, Petersham and St Peters.

Marrickville Rural Outpost to Inner City is published by Hale & Iremonger (RRP \$29.95) and was launched earlier this month at the Mayoral Christmas Party by Fred Daly.



Front cover illustration from *Marrickville Rural Outpost to Inner City*. Fowler's Pottery at Camperdown 1864.

Lunch at Sydney Town Hall

The Friends of the Sydney Town Hall invite members of the Society to a light lunch in the town hall on Saturday December 22 at 1pm. Sydney Town Hall is currently undergoing a \$10million refurbishment and the architect will be there to explain how the funds will be spent. The city organist Robert Armpf will play the organ and invite those present for a closer look at the pipes. It is hoped that tenor Bill Adamis will also sing.

Cost is \$12 and cheques should be made payable to the Friends of the Town Hall, G.P.O. Box 1591 Sydney 2001. For further information contact Rex Parsons on 665-9365.

Search on for stone sentries

Suburb loses its pride ... of lions

HAS anyone seen two large lion statues lately?
If you have, Marrickville Heritage Society would like to know where they are.

Two historic lion statues have been stolen from the entrance to the old Marrickville Town Hall and the Society has launched an appeal for their return.
"We are outraged by the theft of the lions. They have graced the steps of the town hall building for more than 100 years," said Society president Geoffrey Ostling.
"There are few clues to their disappearance and we are appealing to everyone to be on the lookout for them."
"They may turn up in an antique shop or even in a neighbour's garden."

Historic

But Society feels the disappearance of the lions is only the tip of the iceberg of a long history of neglect.

Yes, the lions have been stolen from the Old Marrickville Town Hall and this is only the tip of the iceberg of a long history of neglect. The Society has been campaigning for the restoration of the building since 1987.
"Why is it that despite the serious nature of what is happening to this heritage building, the Minister for Housing has still not acknowledged or replied to my letters of October 9 and 18? His office has now ceased returning my telephone calls.
I ask the Premier of NSW to investigate the actions of his Minister for Housing, or at least lend him a copy of the Heritage Act."

Bruce R. Welch,
Thompson Street,
Marrickville.

"Despite its historic status the building is falling in disrepair," Mr Ostling said.
"We have appealed to the Department of Housing, which now owns it, to restore it before it is too late."
The Department plans to erect pens units on the land around the building but the future of the building is undecided.

A conservation architect, Orrell & P, 1989 recommended preservation of the building.

The same is preparing plans for housing estate.

"We don't want to see the town hall destroyed," said President, Mr Tim Deane.

"At the moment we are trying to decide what to do with the building," he said.

Mr Deane said the building was in a state of disrepair and the Society was trying to raise money to restore it.



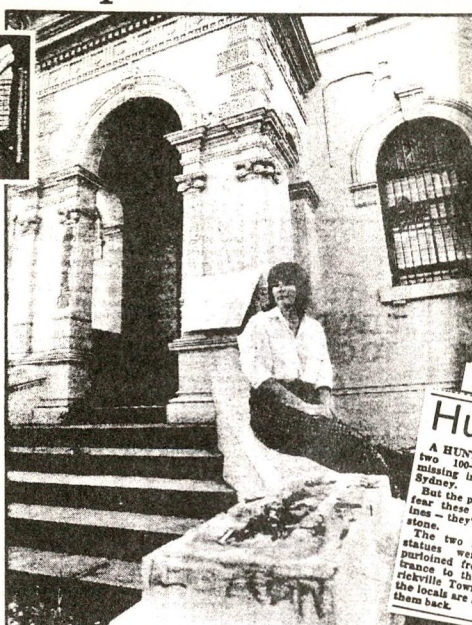
By GERALDINE O'BRIEN
Heritage Writer

The theft of the lions was the last straw. Since the 1890s, the Sphinx-like pair have crouched at the base of the steps leading to the old Marrickville Town Hall. They survived years of municipal life and later student life when the hall was used by Marrickville Public School.
Some time in the past two weeks they were nicked ... from their bases and carried away.
The Marrickville Heritage Society is furious.
In 1987, when the Education Department still had the building (although not using it), there were two fires caused by arsonists.

The Illawarra Road building was later transferred to the Department of Housing, which plans to build pensioner housing on the adjoining site.

The heritage society is happy about the housing, but most unhappy about the continued neglect.
The hall is the fourth oldest in Sydney - including Sydney Town Hall itself. It was built in 1879, with a second storey, and probably the lions, added in 1883.
Following the 1987 fires, a permanent conservation order was placed on the building under the Heritage Act: it is classified by the National Trust as well as featuring as a heritage building on Marrickville Council's local environment plan.

You wouldn't guess it to look at the exterior now. It has been boarded up to prevent further vandalism.
Ms Judith Matheson, vice-president of the heritage society, says: "We would just like to see this building restored and occupied, whether as a community centre for pensioners or a local history museum - as long as it is used and cared for."
The society has appealed to both the department and the Premier to act before the building is damaged any further.



Heritage society vice-president Ms Judith Matheson contemplates the damage. Inset: The missing lions.

Picture by STEVEN SIEWERT

The Glebe

The lion's share for prankster

TWO stone lion statues were stolen from outside the old Marrickville Town Hall last week and resident Bruce Welch is angry because he says little is being done to recover them.

Marrickville Heritage Society, said he contacted the police, Marrickville Council and the Housing Department which owns the building and every-
"They are treating the theft as a bit of a prank but there are very serious allegations involved," Mr Welch said.
e said the 1879 building was listed by a Permanent Conservation Order under the Heritage Act, classified by the National Trust as a heritage building.

LEP 50 was a maximum of 10 years for the building, and the guilty people could be charged with theft.

He said when he contacted the Housing Department last week, he was told the building was being investigated.

Mr Hristovski said the building was being investigated and the Housing Department was looking into the matter.
But Mr Welch said that for too long the building had been neglected by the future use of the building.

thieves' number plate, it had proved untraceable.
Mr Hristovski said the worst scenario would be that copies of the statues would be put back in their place.
He said work was being done to clear the land beside the hall for pensioner units and the regional supervisor of works at the Illawarra Rd site was also told of the theft and was investigating.

Mr Hristovski said the building was being investigated and the Housing Department was looking into the matter.

But Mr Welch said that for too long the building had been neglected by the future use of the building.

He said the property section of the future use of the building.

The Daily Telegraph Hunt for missing 'lions'

By JIM O'ROURKE

A HUNT has begun for two 100-year-old lions missing in the wilds of Sydney.
But the public need not fear these majestic felines - they're made from stone.
The two historic lion statues were recently purloined from the entrance to the old Marrickville Town Hall and the locals are keen to see them back.

an antique shop or even in a neighbor's garden, so if anyone sees them please contact Marrickville police.

"The lions were a landmark in the area and we can only hope they will be returned to their rightful place."
The town hall is protected by a permanent conservation order and listed by the National Trust.

EDITORIAL

The Lion Hunt Continues...

It's now more than six weeks since the lion statues disappeared from the steps of the old Marrickville Town Hall. The police have reached a dead end in their inquiries and the owner, the Department of Housing, has said very little publicly. The theft of the lions and the dismal state of the town hall building was reported in several newspapers following publicity by the Society including the Sydney Morning Herald.

We have written to the Premier and relevant Government ministers expressing our concern about the continued deterioration of the building and we await their reply. We are also making inquiries with the Heritage Council regarding the requirements of the Heritage Act.

OUR LAST MEETING

Songs of Heroes and Villains

A glorious spring day and the newly painted rotunda at Petersham Park proved to be the perfect setting for folk song authority John Dengate to present a morning of history in song. John led us through the early years of Australian history in song and verse. Many of the early convict songs and tunes were banned in their day and it was an offence to sing or even hum them! John sang songs about bushrangers and pioneers and ended the morning with one of his own compositions, a tribute to his mother.

About 30 members and their families enjoyed our picnic in the park appropriately accompanied by a local cricket match. There was fruit punch, watermelon and Christmas cake and a visit from our favourite Santa who had presents for everyone. How does he do it? Thanks to Shirley Hilyard and other members of the executive who organised the day.

MIXED EXHIBITION

MARY REIBEY INTERIORS & GALLERY

224 ENMORE ROAD, ENMORE
PHONE 516 4902

Third Runway Proposal

Have Your Say

The deadline for public comment on the draft Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed third runway at Sydney Airport is December 20 1990. Have your say before it is too late. According to the Second Sydney Airport Coalition, the third runway would result in more jets over all the affected suburbs, particularly to the north.

Suburbs like Stanmore and Marrickville would experience an increase in landings from 43,800 to 78,600 per year and an increase in takeoffs from 3500 to 19,400 a year, claims the S S A C, using figures from the EIS. That is one plane overhead every 3.5 minutes for 16 hours per day.

Make your written submissions to: The Secretary, Department of Arts, Sport, and the Environment, Tourism and Territories, GPO Box 787, Canberra ACT 2601. Attention Kasandra Tzafaris, Environment Assessment Branch. You can also write to the minister, the Hon. Ros Kelly, Parliament House, Canberra.

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.