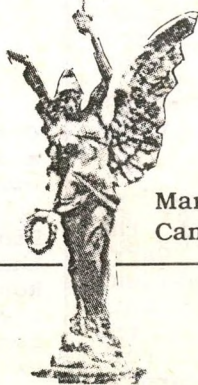


MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY

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

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



OUR NEXT MEETING

TOUR OF ROSE SEIDLER HOUSE 71 Clissold Road Wahroonga SATURDAY 28 MARCH

LEAVING PETERSHAM TOWN HALL AT 9.30 AM

It was only 40 years ago that Harry Seidler's radical new house design shocked Sydney-siders with its flat roof, glass walls and open-plan design. Still a remarkable example of the 'modern' school, Rose Seidler House provides a fascinating insight into the Australia of the 1950's. Seidler is now Australia's best known architect and he remains one of the most controversial. In 1988 Seidler donated the house he designed for his mother Rose to the Historic Houses Trust, which has restored it to its 1950's vintage.

For our next excursion we will visit Rose Seidler House. We leave Petersham Town Hall at 9.30 am and travel to Wahroonga by bus, arriving at 10.30 am. After morning tea we will tour the house and hear a short talk by the curator. Cost is \$12 and includes a light lunch provided by the Trust as well as transport. We will return to Petersham Town Hall around 2.30 pm. If you wish to make your own way to Rose Seidler House please meet us there at 10.30am. The address is 71 Clissold Road, Wahroonga. Cost for tour and lunch only is \$10. Bookings are required so please phone Judith on 560 1751.

WOODBLOCK PRINTS by REN HUA SHEN SHAOMIN

*You are invited to join
the artists for drinks*

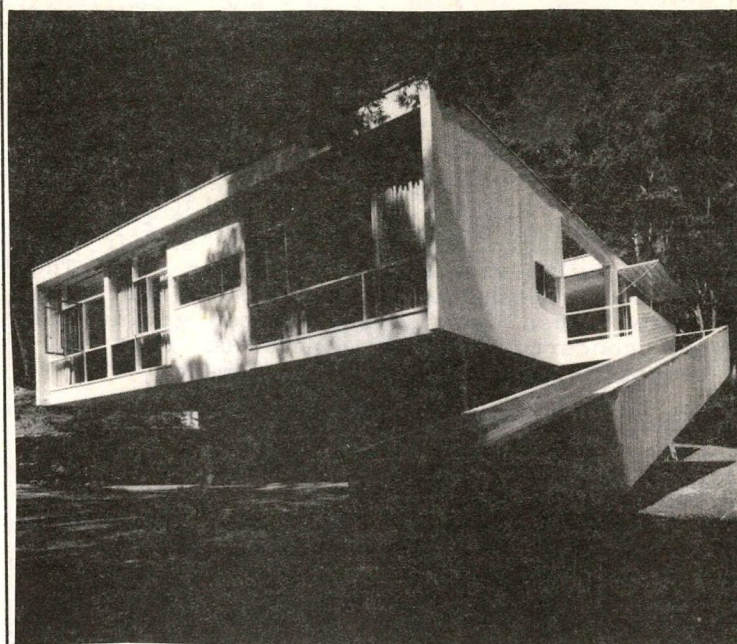
Wednesday 11 March 6-8 pm

Hours Wed 11-4pm
Thur - Fri 11-7pm
Sat-Sun 11-4pm



Mary Reibey
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CURRENT EXHIBITIONS

THE AGE OF MACQUARIE

28 February - 17 May 1992
Greenway Gallery
Hyde Park Barracks

Society, politics, religion, decorative arts, fine arts, literature and architecture in New South Wales during the twelve years of Lachlan Macquarie's governorship. Open 10-5 every day except Good Friday.

ART DECO IN RANDWICK 1930-1940

23 January - 2 May 1992
Sandgate, Randwicks Heritage Centre
128 Belmore Road, Randwick

An exhibition of the exciting period of change. Open 10 - 4 Tues - Sat, 2 - 4 Sunday

HERITAGE WEEK CONCERT

2 pm SUNDAY 3 MAY 1992

Our concert this year will be held at the end of Heritage Week at St Stephens Anglican Church, Church Street, Newtown.

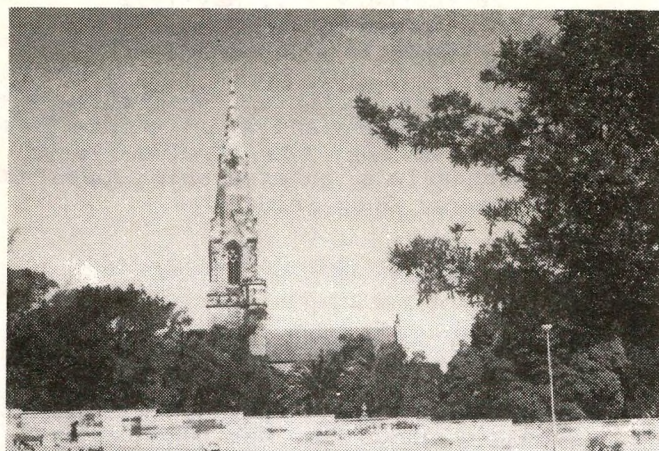
This year the National Trust's theme is *Discover Your Hidden Heritage*, and the concert programme does just that. Garry Rodgers, organist at St Stephens and resident of Petersham, has discovered music for both organ and harp written in Australia by the 19th century composer Isaac Nathan. Four harpists from the New South Wales Harpist Society will present pieces by Nathan and Robert Charles Nicholas Bochsa. Both Nathan and Bochsa are buried in Camperdown Cemetery, adjacent to St Stephens.

Bochsa had a colourful career. He was harpist to Napoleon, but fled France for England after being accused of forgery, and joined the Royal Academy. He travelled the continent with his devoted pupil, opera singer Anna Bishop, with whom he had eloped in 1839. They visited the United States, then Australia, where Bochsa died in 1856 after giving only one concert. Anna laid him to rest in a beautiful tomb in Camperdown Cemetery.

Other performers will include Tristan and Luke Linton France who will form a trio with their mother and play some well-known pieces. Tristan and Luke entertained members at the Pot Luck dinner last year. The famous Newington College Chamber Choir will perform both accompanied and unaccompanied music from their repertoire and Michael Hissey, their master, will also sing. Peals of the carillon will conclude the concert at 4 pm and afternoon tea will be served.

The concert will be entrance by donation to aid the St Stephens Restoration Fund and the Marrickville Heritage Society, so please bring your friends and give generously.

Helpers will be needed for making afternoon tea, ushers etc. If you can help, phone Sue Miller on 519.9980(h) or 217.3344 (w).



St Stephen's, Newtown.

OUR LAST MEETING

TALKING HISTORY

Oral history ... can give back to people who made and experienced history, through their own words, a central place. Paul Thompson.

At our last meeting, guest speaker Rosemary Block left us with a lasting impression that the spoken word has great power and impact. Rosemary is Oral History Project Officer at the State Library of NSW. The project was begun just over a year ago and Rosemary explained how it will shortly be accessible to the public. Oral history is a picture of the past in people's own words. Today it is most often associated with tape recorded interviews with people talking about their own memories. Rosemary had most of the 40 members and friends present talking about memories after the meeting. We hope to begin an oral history project within the Society shortly, and I would welcome suggestions for suitable 'interviewees'. Remember that seemingly ordinary lives can be quite extraordinary. Judith Matheson.

HERITAGE ITEMS IN DULWICH HILL

1-7 Abergeldie St	Victorian House
25 Abergeldie St	Cottage and garden
29 Constitution Rd	Victorian Villa
114 Ewart St	Gladstone Hall
7-9 Herbert St	Holy Trinity Church of England
11-13 Herbert St	The Rectory
227 Old Canterbury Rd	Victorian Villa
279 Old Canterbury Rd	Victorian House
1 Seaview St	Dulwich Hill High School
10 Terry St	Waratah Flour Mill
122 Victoria St	Timber Edwardian House
128 Wardell Rd	Timber Cottage
194-206 Wardell Rd	Carmelite Convent

The list of heritage items in Dulwich Hill is much shorter than that for the more easterly suburbs of the municipality. This is not necessarily because Dulwich Hill is any less interesting, but reflects the bias in the Local Environment Plan's list of heritage items towards old things. Dulwich Hill was developed in the early 20th century after the opening of the Bankstown railway line in 1895. The last major sub-division in the municipality was the Abergeldie Estate at Dulwich Hill, the layout and architecture of which was influenced by the Art Deco style.

A block of the Abergeldie Estate subdivision is listed as a heritage precinct. This is a triangular wedge bounded by Old Canterbury Road, the rear fences of 1-59 Dixon Street and the rear fences of 1-47 Elizabeth Avenue. The estate includes a consistent group of 1930s bungalow housing unified by their dark red brick colouring and style. Brick fencing and garden plantings along the gently curved streets make an important contribution to the group. At the centre of Hugh Avenue the estate focuses on a group of larger houses including one in the style of colonial revival and one in the modern or ocean liner style of the period.

HERITAGE ADVISER FOR MARRICKVILLE COUNCIL

Marrickville Council has recently appointed Amanda Jean as Heritage Adviser. The position is jointly funded by Marrickville Council and the NSW government. It is part of a wider Heritage Advisory scheme which began in 1983 and has since expanded to over 40 advisers throughout the state. The scheme is funded through the State Heritage Assistance Programme. The role of the Heritage Adviser is to provide professional support to the Council to assist in achieving its heritage conservation objectives.

In Marrickville, Mandy Jean's tasks will include liaison with property owners at an early stage, before development proposals are finalised. She will provide advice on alterations and restorations on heritage buildings, and on appropriate materials, tradesmen and conservation specialists.

As well, she will advise Marrickville Council on all development and building proposals regarding specific heritage items and on the adequacy of its heritage plans and controls. She will also assist in the promotion of heritage conservation within the municipality.

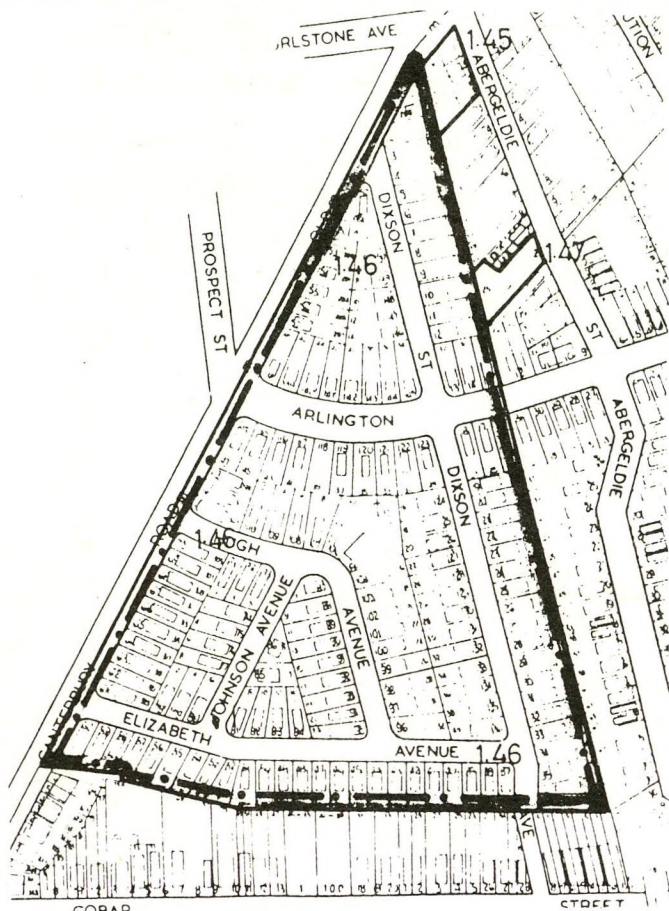


Mandy Jean has been involved with architectural conservation work for about 20 years. She has worked for the Commonwealth Government's Heritage Unit in Melbourne (advising on the conservation of Commonwealth owned heritage buildings), and in Sydney has worked with several conservation architects including Clive Lucas, Ian Stapleton and Associates.

Mandy now has her own architectural practice specialising in residential work. As a member of the Historic Buildings Committee of the Royal Australian Institute of Architects, she is assisting with the up-dating of the list of Significant Buildings of the 20th Century and with the NSW Architects Oral History Programme.

Mandy works one day per week as Heritage Adviser. She can be contacted every Friday at Marrickville Council chambers in Fisher St, Petersham (phone 325 2256) and will be happy to advise Marrickville Municipality residents on matters concerning heritage conservation of their properties.

The Society extends a warm welcome to Mandy. She will give a talk to the Society when she is more familiar with the heritage issues in the Municipality, has also agreed to contribute regularly to the Newsletter. Congratulations also to Marrickville Council for taking this step. It is hoped that the benefits of employing a Heritage Adviser will lead to the creation of a full-time position in the future.



Apart from this precinct, it is disturbing that most of the individual buildings in the Heritage list for Dulwich Hill are "Victorian", predating the important development period. The exceptions are the 1915 Holy Trinity Church, the 1914 Waratah Flour Mill and the Edwardian cottage in Victoria Street. It would be nice to have some more individual 20th century buildings included on the list, perhaps Federation, or California Bungalow style, whether in the Abergeldie precinct or elsewhere.

POT LUCK CHRISTMAS DINNER

The Society's annual pot-luck Christmas dinner was held on 17 December last year at Sylvia Hale's home, the American Consul's Residence in Palace St, Petersham. Fifty-four members and friends enjoyed a magnificent spread in elegant surroundings. Most appropriate musical entertainment was provided by the string duet Tristan and Luke Linton France. Author and historian Christopher Keating talked about his books on the history of the inner western suburbs of Surry Hills and Millers Point (the latter co-authored by Shirley Fitzgerald). Quizmaster Lindsay Smyth masterminded a very competitive quiz on local history (based on Cashman and Meader's book Marrickville) during which everyone present seemed to win a prize, whether they knew the right answers or not! Our thanks go to Sylvia for providing a great atmosphere for the dinner.

NEIGHBOURHOOD ISSUES

HURSTVILLE MECCA UNDER THREAT

One of the state's most significant heritage cinemas, the Hurstville Mecca (Savoy) is threatened with demolition for redevelopment. The Hurstville Mecca is the finest surviving example of an early Art Deco picture palace in NSW, according to the National Trust. It was fully restored in the mid-1970's and its significance was highlighted in a 1983 report on cinemas and theatres commissioned by the Heritage Council of NSW. The National Trust considers the Mecca "the most significant surviving cinema after Sydney's State and Capitol Theatres." The Society has sent a letter to the Heritage Council asking that a Heritage Order be placed on the Mecca to protect it.

HERITAGE 7 IS OUT SOON:

- * ART DECO IN MARRICKVILLE
- * A WALKING TOUR OF COOKS RIVER
- * THE HISTORY OF ST STEPHENS CHURCH, NEWTOWN
- * A MARRICKVILLE BOYHOOD
- * HOW TO RECONSTRUCT YOUR HERITAGE
- * NSW PREMIERS SIR ALEXANDER STEWART AND JOHN MCGOWAN
- * ST JOHNS AMBULANCE IN MARRICKVILLE
- * THE ART OF STAINED GLASS

Send Newsletter contributions to Editor Jeannette Hope, PO Box 702, Marrickville, 2204, phone or fax 559 1431. Suggestions, notes, quotes, drawings, photos, cartoons, newspaper cuttings, coming events all welcome.

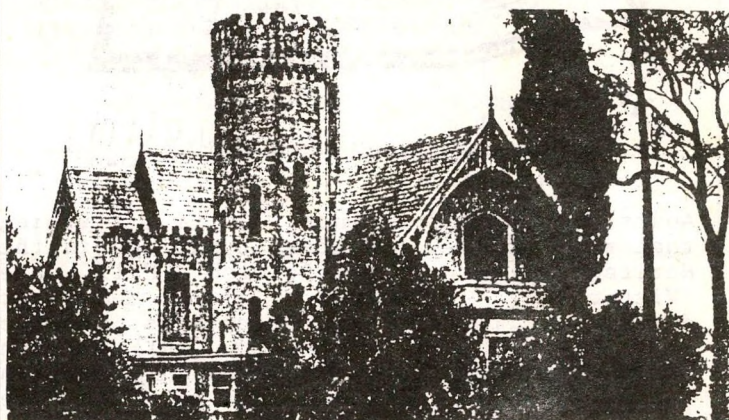
HOW TO SUBSCRIBE

It's only \$12 for individuals, \$18 for households and institutions and \$6 for students and pensioners. You will receive copies of the Newsletter (either posted or delivered to your door) and the journal Heritage. Your subscription is valid for the Society year starting 1 July. Regular meetings are held on the fourth Saturday of each month. Write to PO Box 415 Marrickville 2204.

THE TOWERS, BELMORE

A group called The Tower Defenders has been formed to support the conservation of The Towers, one of the oldest and grandest homes still standing in Canterbury Municipality. The Towers, earlier known as the Castle, is an example of Gothic Revival architecture, featuring fortress-like battlements similar to the early castles of England. It retains most of its original features, including an imposing octagonal tower, beautiful timber panelling, marble fireplaces, and a fine spiral staircase. The house is set in spacious grounds with pleasant trees and shrubs which now provide a welcome public open space in an area with few parks.

David Jones, a notable builder from Bathurst, bought part of the original land grant in 1854 and built The Towers in 1888. Mr Jones is known for building several fine monuments, including the Goulburn and Bathurst Court Houses, both of which still stand today. He was an amateur astronomer and built The Towers so he could view the stars.



In 1988 Canterbury Council purchased The Towers, and restored the chimneys with a grant from Bicentennial funds. In 1988 John Gorrie, Mayor of Canterbury, said "the people of Canterbury can look forward to knowing that one of the finest homes in the municipality will be restored and retained for future generations". More recently the house has been neglected. Now Canterbury Council plan to sell the property, and The Tower Defenders are determined to ensure that the building and its beautiful grounds are preserved, preferably under community ownership. For further information, contact Amelia Newman on 750.4393 (ah).

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