

MARRICKVILLE

HERITAGE SOCIETY

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

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



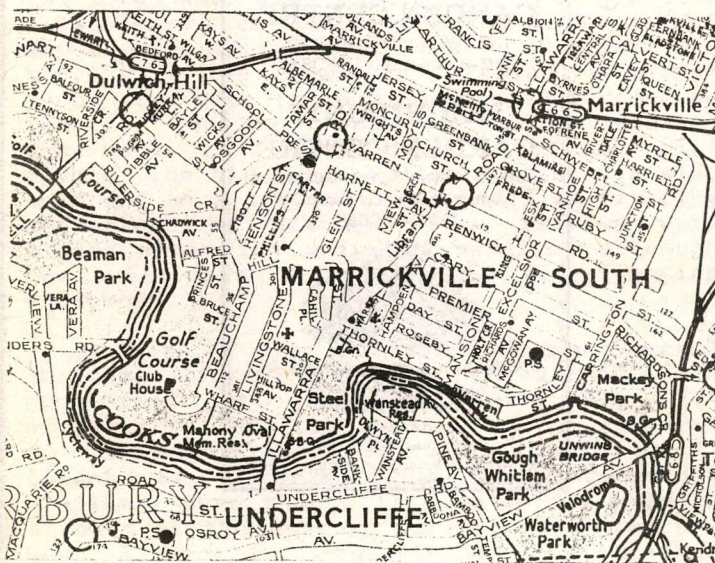
OUR NEXT MEETING

A WALKING TOUR OF COOKS RIVER

SATURDAY JULY 25, 11 AM
MEET AT BEAMAN PARK, EARLWOOD

Much neglected and misunderstood, Cooks River has in fact had a rich and varied history. A rich source of food for Aboriginal people of the area, it was later a popular boating and bathing spot during the 19th century. Several mansions, including The Warren and Tempe House, were built on its shores as were many factories and industries. Regarded for decades as little more than a stormwater canal, it is showing new signs of life! The mullet and mangroves have returned and new management attitudes point to a brighter future.

Society member Mark Matheson has devised a walking tour of Cooks River which the Society will publish shortly as a brochure. At our next meeting we will walk a section of the tour, taking about one and a half hours, from Beaman Park to Gough Whitlam Park.



Travel by train to Dulwich Hill Station and walk down Wardell Rd to Beaman Park; or park your car in Riverside Crescent, Marrickville, and walk across the bridge; or park in Riverview Road, Earlwood. At 11 am, we will follow the tour along Cooks river, noting historic sites and points of interest along the way, and arriving at Gough Whitlam Park at approx. 12.30pm.

For those who wish to finish the tour at this stage, Tempe Station is a few minutes walk. For those who wish to picnic at Gough Whitlam Park and enjoy one of the better examples of park landscaping along the river, please bring your own lunch. After lunch we will continue along the river to view the site of Tempe House and then return to Tempe Station at approx. 2pm. (Travel by train to Dulwich Hill Station via Sydenham to pick up your car.) If you would like transport to Beaman Park, please call Judith on 560 1751.

CAMPERDOWN CEMETERY CLEAN-UP

ST STEPHENS CHURCH

26 JULY 10AM - 1PM

The Camperdown Cemetery Working Group, made up of local residents and interested people, has organised a clean-up of Camperdown Cemetery at St Stephens Church on Sunday morning, 26 July. Bring your gardening gloves and come along and help between 10am and 1pm. Some of the most significant graves will be tackled first - a start has already been made on those of Enoch Fowler and Alexander Macleay, and on the Dunbar Tomb and Memorial, but there are many more in need of tender loving care. Meet at the back of the cemetery on the Lennox Street side (Dunbar Tomb). Refreshments provided. For more information, or if you have any suggestions, phone Sue Miller on 519 9980 (home).

STANMORE SOCIETY

If you live in the Stanmore area you may be interested in joining the Stanmore Society. For information write to PO Box 419 Petersham 2049. Forthcoming events include the AGM and Cocktail Party on August 19.

MARY REIBEY INTERIORS & GALLERY

ETCHINGS BY TREVOR RIACH
28 July - 16 August

OPENING 6-8pm 28 JULY
ALL WELCOME

224 Enmore Road, Enmore
02 516 4902
11-4 Wed Sat Sun
11-7 Thurs Fri

HERITAGE 7 LAUNCH PARTY

**TUESDAY AUGUST 4 6.30-8 PM
GOLDEN BARLEY HOTEL, ENMORE**

Members are invited to join authors, advertisers and other guests for a drinks party to launch Heritage 7 on Tuesday August 4 from 6.30-8pm in the bistro bar of the Golden Barley Hotel, corner of Edgeware Road and Llewellyn St, Enmore.

The hotel features in the Art Deco Marrickville article in Heritage 7 and is described as "the finest example of the International Style of hotel architecture in Marrickville."



If you would like to stay for dinner, we will be booking a table at the No Names Italian Restaurant within the hotel. Please book for the drinks party (some drinks complimentary), dinner (at your own expense, but not expensive) or both with Judith (560 1751) or Shirley (569 1768).

OBITUARY - MARY MUNRO

It is with regret that we note the death of Mary Munro of Camperdown on 16 June 1992, after a brief illness. Mary joined the Society in 1985 and at her funeral service at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital Chapel we heard of the remarkable woman's nursing service. Born in Musselburgh, Edinburgh, she did her general training at St Mary Hospital, London and midwifery at the famed Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh.

Mary came to Australia in June 1948 and continued to gain many specialist nursing certificates both here and overseas, notably polio and tuberculosis. The latter certificate took her to Nauru and Thursday Island as sister-in-charge TB ward and later matron. In 1979 she "retired" to Kingston Road, Camperdown and continued to serve as a volunteer at RPA four days a week, where she was known as "little Mary". On Australia Day, 1983, she became an Australian citizen. Once again, we failed to record Mary's story. Members of the Society attending the service joined her sister and friends in tribute to her life.

Shirley Hilyard

OUR LAST MEETING

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Executive elections were held at the Society's Annual General Meeting on June 27. Unfortunately attendance this year was poor (about 30 members out of our total membership of 270) and we must again urge all members to take a more active role in YOUR Society.

Presentations were made to outgoing president Judith Matheson and treasurer Paula Gard as thanks for their work for the Society. The new executive for 1992/93 is President: Shirley Hilyard, Senior Vice-President: Jeannette Hope; Junior Vice-President: Pamela Stewart; Treasurer: Lindsay Smyth; Secretary: Sue Miller; Assistant Secretary: Mabelle Smyth; and Committee Members: Brian Nugent, Peter Swain and Geoff Ostling.

Voluntary positions were accepted by Mary Tait, Membership Secretary; Brad Robinson, Auditor, and Richard Hughes, Solicitor. Committee chairs were accepted by Jeannette Hope, Publications; Judith Matheson, Classifications; David Hilyard, Heritage Watch; and Sue Miller, Heritage Week Concert. If you would like to volunteer for any of these committees please contact Shirley on 569 1768.

SHRUBS AND TUBS GARDEN CENTRE

130-136 Canterbury Road
Petersham • Tel: 560 3884

LEICHHARDT GARDEN CENTRE

346-350 Norton Street, Leichhardt
(Lilyfield Road end of Norton St)
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Old Fashioned Climbers and Roses
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Everything to keep your garden healthy

COMING EVENTS

AUGUST 22: Guest speakers Brian Madden and Lesley Muir will discuss the history of neighbouring municipality, Canterbury.

SEPTEMBER 26: A springtime excursion to Rookwood Cemetery for a guided tour of Australia's biggest necropolis and the biggest Victorian cemetery in the world.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 1991/92

This has been an important year for the Marrickville Heritage Society. It is a year in which, I believe, the community at large has finally caught up with the notion of heritage. Suddenly, it seems, heritage is something of a buzz word. Community groups, many government authorities, even private enterprise are talking about preserving our heritage.

So in many ways the Marrickville Heritage Society has come into its own. We have been promoting an awareness of our local heritage for the past eight years. With more than 250 subscribers and a solid financial base, the society is a dynamic and influential group within the local community. Our publications, which have fostered a great deal of original research, are well respected and widely read, our regular meetings and excursions are an enjoyable way to discover many aspects of heritage and our behind-the-scenes lobbying has kept heritage prominent among decision makers. Thus we find ourselves in an excellent position to encourage and support this new found community interest in heritage.

This does not mean, however, that we can be complacent or rest on our laurels. While there have been some significant gains in the past year, there have been some losses, or in some cases, near misses. Let me give a few examples.

It is a year in which we saw several major local institutions close down. Marrickville Hospital was closed under controversial circumstances. Its medical services date back to 1894 and the future of the historic buildings on the site is unknown. Tempe Bus Depot was also closed after 80 years of service to the community. Originally a tram depot, the site is to be developed for medium density housing, and we have received assurance that the depot building will remain. The old Tempe Police Station was also sold off to a private buyer and fire-fighting operations at Stanmore Fire Station were closed after 105 years of service, although the building will still house fire-fighting equipment.

It is also a year in which we saw several heritage listed buildings threatened with demolition or part-demolition. The RTA proposed to demolish several of the chimneys on the magnificent Federation house at 75 London St, Enmore, due to maintenance problems. Even though this wonderful example of turn of the century domestic architecture has every conceivable heritage classification, including the Register of the National Estate, the RTA saw fit to dismiss its heritage significance. A barrage of letters from the Society and others appears to have convinced the RTA that the chimneys are worth saving.

The Petersham Inn, an Art Deco Hotel on Parramatta Road, has had development applications approved by both Marrickville Council and the Heritage Council on the basis that its heritage significance has been eroded by alterations in the public bar. And

just weeks ago we were alerted to the unauthorised demolition of windows in the old bank building at 325 King Street, Newtown, another building protected by several heritage orders.

While this matter is still under consideration, it is heartening to note that Marrickville Council acted quickly to halt the unauthorised work. We are also encouraged by Marrickville Council's appointment of Mandy Jean as part-time heritage adviser to the council. In her limited time Mandy has already done much to increase awareness of heritage issues within councils.

This year has also seen the first positive moves towards salvaging the old Marrickville Town Hall, a building of particular significance to the Marrickville municipality. After years of neglect, the building will be sold by the owner, the Department of Housing. Marrickville Council, at the urging of the Society, has tendered for the sale. There is still a long way to go, as the town hall will cost several hundreds of thousands of dollars to restore, but we are hopeful that with support of the wider community this building will be put to good use once again.

We are also heartened by other government initiatives, such as the Main Street Program for King Street and Enmore Road, and CityRail's current refurbishment of the Victorian era footbridge at Petersham Station. We will be consulting with both groups on suitable heritage colour schemes.

Of course, our watchdog role is just one of many aspects of the Society. We have had a varied and successful program of member activities and events this year. Some of the more popular have included our excursion to Rouse Hill House and our combined tour of Newington College, conducted by Peter Swain, and Christmas picnic. This meeting attracted our biggest attendance ever. Talks by Mary Nilsson, president of the Art Deco Society, and Rosemary Block, oral History Project from the State Library, created a great deal of interest. Two members' evenings organised by Geoff Ostling at Parliament House with local MP Andrew Refshauge were well attended as was our Christmas Pot Luck Dinner at the home of member Sylvia Hale and our annual harbour cruise organised by Ann Carolan.

Our Heritage Week Concert, which attracted close to 200 people, was not only an exceptional afternoon of music but a successful fundraising venture for much needed repairs to historic St Stephens Church, Newtown.

On a sad note, we lost several of our long term members. Maisie Cox and her dear friend Amy Needham, both life members of the Society, passed away this year, as did Ron Sawkins and, just recently, Mary Munro.

I would like to reiterate my plea that we record personal histories of our members, especially those who have had a long association with Marrickville, so that their recollections become a valued part of our local heritage. Few of us, for example, knew of Mary's long and distinguished career in nursing.

In closing I would like to thank all our members who have given so generously of their time and their skills over the past year, in particular our hard working executive - vice presidents Shirley Hilyard and Jeannette Hope, secretary Pamela Stewart, assistant secretary Mabelle Smyth and executive members Lindsay Smyth, Sue Miller and Ian Rouse. Special thanks to Paula Gard who will be retiring after two years as our treasurer due to family commitments.

I would like to thank our publications committee chair Jeannette Hope and her committee - David Hilyard, Geoff Ostling, Pamela Stewart and myself - for maintaining the high quality of our journal Heritage (of which most other societies are extremely envious) and producing a thoroughly readable magazine. Special thanks to advertising agent extraordinaire Shirley Hilyard who convinced 15 advertisers and sponsors to part with their money and support the journal. As a result, nearly two-thirds of the cost of the journal has been met by advertisements. Jeannette has also coordinated publication of the Newsletter this year.

Thanks also to our Classifications and Heritage Watch Chair David Hilyard and his committee, Barbara Gibbons, Bruce Welch, Rob Muir and Shirley Hilyard. This committee's prolific letter writing and lobbying has kept decision makers on their toes this year.

Thanks to Sue Miller for organising this year's Heritage Week Concert and for donating the bric-a-brac which brought in so much money for the Society at the Cook's River Festival and Marrickville Fair. Thanks also to Mary Tait for her work as Membership Secretary, and to Patron Eve Sharpe for her support.

And thanks to all the Society stalwarts who always seem to be on hand when we need them.

I have enjoyed my year as President and I think we have achieved a great deal. However, I will not be standing for the position again. My life has changed dramatically over the last year. I think if you had told me a year ago that I would be planning a wedding next February, I would not have believed it. Since my energies will be directed towards things matrimonial in the coming year I have decided to stand aside and let someone else take the reins.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support over the past year and for your good wishes to David and myself. Thank you. Judith Matheson

POSTCARD FROM GALWAY, IRELAND

Marilyn Kelly, our former Secretary, wrote recently. She is studying Irish Studies (Literature and History) at Galway University.

"First year is over and now on a long summer break. To Dublin next week for James Joyce Symposium at Trinity College. Won scholarship for J.M.Synge Summer School. Then to Sydney to research. [And see her family and hopefully catch up with us!] Life is so good here." Congratulations, Marilyn.

CANBERRA WEEKEND

Nine hardy adventurers braved the chilly air of the National Capital for a cultural weekend on 30-31 May. The Rubens Exhibition was the main goal but attractions such as the National Film and Sound Archive and Calthorpe's Cottage were enjoyed by all.

Saturday at 2pm saw our intrepid group run the gauntlet of the huge crowds at the National Gallery. Three hours later, we emerged victorious in the battle for culture, having overcome the heat and packed humanity to view the works of Rubens, Caravaggio and other painters of the Italian Renaissance.

Saturday evening was spent at a motel where we had a pleasant dinner and very warm beds. Next morning we drove to Calthorpe's Cottage,



which was built and furnished in 1927 and has been preserved with little change since then. The back yard includes an intact air-raid shelter from World War 2!

After morning tea at the Red Hill Lookout, we spent a couple of interesting hours at the National Film and Sound Archive. This collection of memorabilia of film, stage, recordings and TV included continuous showing of video tapes of Australian classics from earlier years.

Our last stop in Canberra was the Botanic Gardens where we had lunch in the bracing open air. We then walked along some of the forest tracks before setting off for the return journey to Sydney. Our thanks to Geoff Ostling for organising this memorable weekend. Lindsay Smyth

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. Subscriptions are 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.