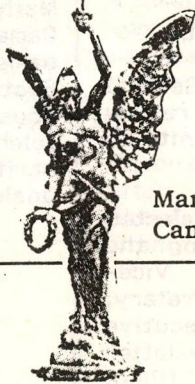


# MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY

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

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



## OUR LAST MEETING

### JOHN HORBURY HUNT (1838 - 1904)

Dr Peter Reynolds, a great enthusiast for his subject, told us of the life and work of John Horbury Hunt. Hunt was Canadian-born and Boston-trained, and he arrived in Sydney in 1863. After working for Edmund Blacket from 1863 to 1869, Hunt commenced his own architectural practice.

Using an interesting collection of slides, Peter took us through Hunt's often stormy career in which he designed churches and cathedrals, schools, residences (often on a grand scale), shearing sheds and stables. His free-Gothic style of complex form and asymmetrical balance, attention to brick-work and timber finish, use of shingles and such features as chimneys and lanterns resulted in many distinctive buildings of outstanding merit.

Of particular note are the Anglican cathedrals at Armidale and Grafton, and churches at Denman, Bransford and Dapto. Peter Reynolds rates the Chapel of the Sacred Heart at Rose Bay as Hunt's greatest work. Hunt's houses include *Booloominbah* (Armidale - now part of the University of New England), *Camelot* (Narellan), *Pibrac* (Warrawee) and *Highlands* (Waitara).

Of local interest is the fact that the original building on the site of Trinity Grammar School at Hurlstone Park, named Hurlstone by John Kinloch, was recently discovered to be a Hunt building.

Hunt re-organised the Institute of Architects of NSW after schism, and forged an alliance with the Royal Institute of British Architects in 1893. His practice collapsed in the 1890s depression and Hunt spent the last ten years of his life in penury. He is buried at South Head cemetery.

Peter Reynolds is the Master of the Horbury Hunt Club, a group interested in architecture, especially the work of John Horbury Hunt, and architectural history generally. In 1991, the club established the John Horbury Hunt Award for Excellence in Brickwork to encourage architects, brickmakers and bricklayers to improve the use of bricks. Brian Madden



## OUR NEXT MEETINGS

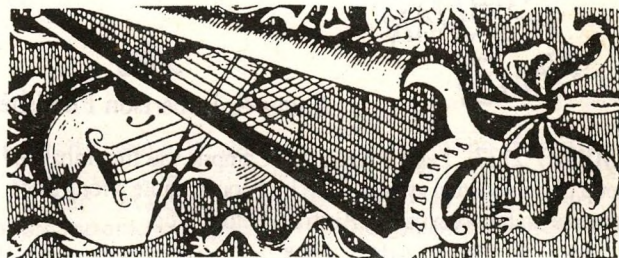
### A HERITAGE DOUBLE SERVING IN MAY!

#### HERITAGE AND HERMITAGE AN AUTUMN DAY IN THE HUNTER VALLEY

SATURDAY 22 MAY

Bus departs Petersham Town Hall 7.30 am, return by 7 pm.

Society member Geoff Ostling has organised this day trip to Maitland, visiting Grossman House and a Blacket Church, and Bransford, to see John Horbury Hunt's St James. And of course a trip to the Hunter would be incomplete without at least two wineries. Cost is \$30, covering bus trip and entrance fees. Bring your own picnic or purchase lunch in the valley. Sounds delightful? Come and join us. Phone Shirley 569 1768



#### ANNUAL HERITAGE CONCERT NEWINGTON COLLEGE CHAPEL 200 Stanmore Road, Stanmore 2 pm SUNDAY 30 MAY

This concert, a joint venture of Marrickville Heritage Society and Newington College, will feature performances by some of Newington's outstanding music scholarship pupils and staff. The concert will include a marvellous array of instruments and musicians - harpsichord, organ, bassoon and chamber choir. Come along and discover why Newington is renowned for its strong musical heritage.

Admission is by donation with proceeds to the SpineCare Foundation (for children with spinal injuries) and Marrickville Heritage Society.



## COMING EVENTS

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 10.30 am SATURDAY 26 JUNE, 1993 AMENITIES ROOM PETERSHAM TOWN HALL

All members are urged to attend the Annual General Meeting. This is not only a chance to hear a review of the Society's year, it is also your opportunity to have a say in the Society's direction.

Office bearers for the following 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 committee members. The positions of Newsletter Editor and Journal Editor will also be filled. Nominations can be submitted in writing to the Secretary or may be made at the meeting.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Saturday 24 July:** Join us for a visit to Susannah Place, a small terrace of four brick houses, including a corner grocer's shop, built in 1844 in the heart of The Rocks.

**Saturday 28 August:** Talk (to be announced)

**Saturday 25 September:** A tour of Marrickville Gardens.

**Saturday 23 October:** Talk by Phillip Davis, porcelain collector.

## THE OFFICIAL BOOK OF AUSTRALIAN PLACE NAMES



Angus & Robertson Publishers

**CAMPSIE 2137** Legend has it that Campsie was first inhabited by a group of homosexual gypsies. This is of course quite wrong since there were no homosexuals in Australia before 1962.



**CANBERRA 2600** Similar to an aboriginal word meaning *meeting of the breasts* this place has now become better known as a place for beating the breast. It is of course also the brandname for a well-known ladies undergarment which gave a former prime minister to quip 'We need all the support we can get'.

## CURIOSITY CORNER No. 1

Outside Stanmore Library is a drinking bubbler with the following inscription:

"Presented to the residents of Stanmore  
by J. Hargraves, Salisbury Hotel, 1949."

Originally a beer fountain, maybe?

[If you come across any Marrickvillian oddities, send them in to Curiosity Corner.]

## CALLING ALL SCOTS!

Matheson, Andrews, Donaldson, McLaren, Stewart, Cameron, Sinclair etc. etc. Have we missed your name? Well make sure you don't miss **Something Scottish: A Caledonian Gathering** at Elizabeth Bay House, originally the home of the Macleays. A celebration of all things Scottish - music, dance, heritage. From 10am to 4.30pm, Sunday 23 May, at 7 Onslow Avenue, Elizabeth Bay.



HOVEA 6071 Come this way (Gaelic).



## 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)  
Tel: 560 0889



Old Fashioned Climbers and Roses  
Cottage Garden Plants  
Camellias, Azaleas  
All Herbs  
Terracotta Pots, Lattice  
Everything to keep your garden healthy

## HOW TO JOIN THE SOCIETY

Membership is \$12 for individuals, \$18 for households and \$6 for students and pensioners. You will receive a monthly Newsletter (except in January) and the Society's annual 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.

## NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS

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

## VACANCY: NEWSLETTER EDITOR

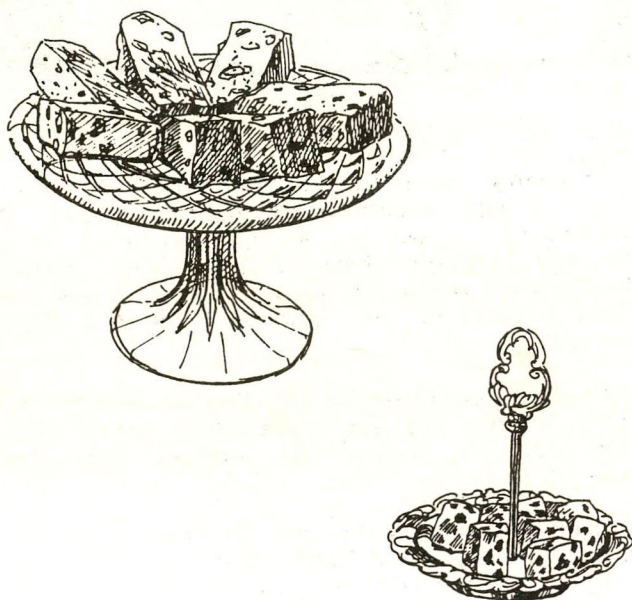
Due to pressure of work, I have reluctantly decided that I can no longer edit the Newsletter. If you are interested in taking over from July and would like more information about what is involved please contact Shirley Hilyard or myself.

Jeannette Hope



**FOOD, GLORIOUS FOOD !!**  
(apologies to David Jones and *Oliver!*)

For over 40 years, Ravenscrofts' cake shop in Enmore Road, Enmore, sold mouth-watering cakes and served delicious morning and afternoon teas. It was here in 1920 that my mother, Florence May Gosper, came to work after my grandfather retired and leased the family bakery in Mascot.



I don't remember ever meeting the Ravenscrofts or their daughter Mona, but I was given the privilege of wearing Mona's tie and hat badge when I went to Fort Street in 1945.

The senior shop assistant was Miss Aileen Kilkeary, who lived at 60 Miller Street, Petersham, with her mother and sister Tress. Miss Kilkeary (whom I called "Aunty Ail") was a very gracious lady (in every sense of the word), quiet and gentle, a good manager, and devoted to her family and church.

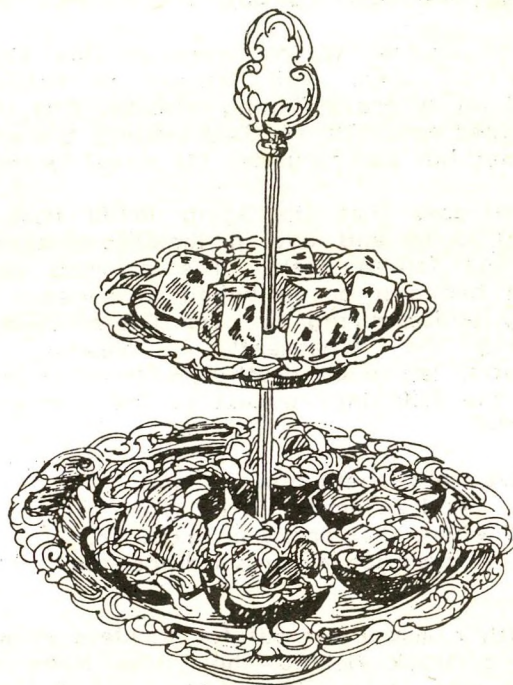
Despite their close life-long friendship, my mother never called her anything except "Miss Kilkeary", and she only referred to my mother as "Miss Gosper".

Aunty Ail was the first person I knew who had a David Jones charge account. I was very impressed. Every birthday and Christmas time, David Jones' truck would deliver to us a parcel of beautiful, well-chosen gifts - lovely underwear, kid gloves, expensive powder compacts and china.



My mother worked at Ravenscrofts until her marriage in 1931. She was thought of as a friend, not just an employee, and her wedding present was a beautiful black-and-white Shelley tea set. (This was in the middle of the Great Depression!) It may not have been very practical, but it was a gift which my mother treasured all her life.

Mum still kept in contact with Aunty Ail and the Ravenscrofts after her marriage and saw them often. Sometimes she went alone, travelling from Abbotsford by tram to Broadway, and then changing trams for Enmore. Sometimes I went too.



The visits were a delightful experience for a child. I remember the window filled with luscious cakes on silver stands covered with white paper lace doilies, sparkling glass-fronted cabinets with highly polished dark wooden tops, the smell of tea and freshly baked cakes and the friendly welcome.

At the back of the shop was a small tea-room - Mum and I always had afternoon tea there when we visited the shop. It was a great treat. Pots of hot, strong tea, petits-fours, lady fingers, dainty asparagus rolls, monte carlos and fluffy sponge cakes filled with raspberry jam and whipped cream and dusted with icing sugar filled the table. The very thought of them still makes my mouth water!

The cake shop, as I remember it, is no more. The Ravenscrofts sold the business, although Aunty Ail worked there until she retired. She died in 1965, and is buried in the Old Catholic Section of Rookwood Cemetery. A tiny part of Enmore's social history died with her. Joan Francis.

(The culinary tradition continues, however. The site of the Ravenscrofts' cake shop in Enmore Road is now a Greek Bakery. Ed.)



## IN SEARCH OF ROBIN HOOD'S FINAL RESTING PLACE

We are all aware of the association between Robin Hood and Sherwood Forest in Nottinghamshire, but it is not widely known that he actually died and was buried in Yorkshire.

I was reading the 1878 edition of Chambers' Book of Days (Vol 2 pp 606-609) and there displayed was a drawing of his grave situated in Kirklees Park, Hartshead, near Huddersfield.

Many would question the existence of this man but Chambers states that "the whole weight of inferential evidence seems to be on the side of those who would retain the notion of his having been a real personage." (p.608)

So when I arrived in Yorkshire in May 1992 to spend a few days with friends in Halifax, I embarked on a grave-finding mission. One of my friends, aged about 70, recalled visiting the site as a youngster but had forgotten its actual location.

The story goes that the aging Robin Hood was persuaded to go and live in Kirklees Convent in view of his failing health. The prioress (acting either on her own or on behalf of someone else) ostensibly endeavouring to cure Robin, opened a vein using the "treatment" of bleeding. This unfortunately led to his death. Not, however, before he made the following request in the presence of Little John:

"Give me my bent bow in hand,  
And an arrow I'll let free  
And where that arrow is taken up,  
There let my grave digged be."

Armed with a map I set out for Kirklees Park and following a track behind the Three Nuns Hotel, reached a sign stating "No public way to Kirklees Priory". Undeterred I took another path circumventing the estate until I reached a road into the Armitage Estate. On reaching Kirklees Hall I found no-one home, however a tradesman appeared and said he'd never seen the grave itself but indicated its general direction. An hour's searching proved fruitless.

Later that day whilst at a book fair I happened to find a local Motoring and Touring Guide from the 1920s in which was marked "Robin Hood's Grave". Hope returned. The tourist office then told me about the local Robin Hood Society and gave me the contact number of its secretary (appropriately named) Barbara Green.

Barbara explained how this grave memorial was only erected in the eighteenth century but was believed to be on the authentic site. The gravesite was on private land and had not been open to the public for a long time, so getting to see it required a diplomatic approach to the elderly Lady Armitage.

There was an alternate method if time was limited, which involved finding a certain bus stop, scaling a five foot wall, following paths up through a rhododendron grove, etc etc...



The following morning, unbeknownst to Lady Armitage, I was standing at Robin's grave, an enclosure surrounded by a high fence of stone bricks and wrought iron. I took some photos, plucked a small piece off the overhanging yew tree and paid homage to this immortal hero of a billion childhoods.

The epitaph is engraved in Old English and though not fully legible, is here transcribed as faithfully as possible. An approximate modern equivalent follows.

Hear Underneath dis taill (?) Stean  
Laz robert earl of Huntingtun  
Ne'er arcinger (?) hic sa geud  
An pipl kauld im robin heud  
Sick utlawz az hi an iz men  
Vil england .....(?) agen

Obit 24 kal Dekembris 1247

Here underneath this tall stone  
Lies Robin Earl of Huntingdon  
Never an archer was so good  
And people called him Robin Hood  
Such outlaws as he and his men  
Will England never see again

Died 24 December 1247

Richard Blair

