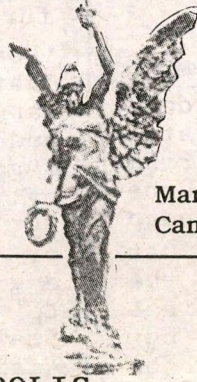


HERITAGE SOCIETY

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



SPRING TOUR OF ROOKWOOD NECROPOLIS
Saturday 26 September 1992

Vol 9 No 3 Sept 1992

OUR LAST MEETING

CANTERBURY TALES

On Saturday 22nd August two of our members, Lesley Muir and Brian Madden, provided a very entertaining illustrated talk on the history of our neighbouring municipality, Canterbury, which will be celebrating the bicentenary of European settlement next year. As Brian said, "at the present time, most of the bicentennial activities will be things like horse-racing and other sports, but he hopes that 'a bit of history will be squeezed in somewhere'".

The story of Canterbury begins with a land grant on what was called the Kangaroo Grounds, to the Rev Richard Johnson, the Anglican chaplain who accompanied the First Fleet and who was described as 'the best farmer in the colony'.

Johnson called his farm 'Canterbury Vale' after the centre of Anglicanism in England. The farm was producing crops as early as 1794, thanks to the convicts assigned to him and the seeds that he had collected at Rio de Janeiro on his way to the colony, and he soon built up his holding to 600 acres.

When Johnson returned to a parish in England, the property passed to William Cox, then Robert Campbell, of 'Campbell's Wharf' and 'Duntroon' fame, and then to his two daughters. One daughter, Sophia, who lived at 'Duntroon' [now part of the Royal Military College in Canberra] funded the building of St Paul's Church in 1859 on condition that she could choose every second clergyman for the Canterbury parish.

Among the early buildings in the Canterbury region is the six storey

Sugar Works, one of the oldest industrial buildings in NSW and presently owned by the Nick Scali furniture company.

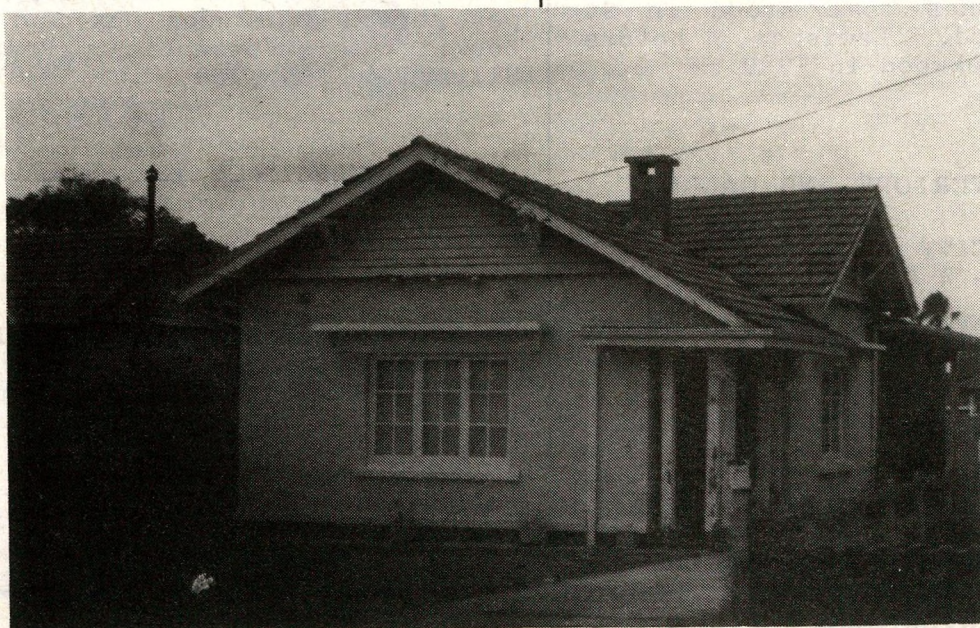
'Loaf' and 'cone' sugar was produced at Canterbury from sugar cane imported from Manila. The company was not a success and in 1852 was reformed as the Colonial Sugar Refining Company, parent company of the present day CSR multinational. By 1885, the sugar works was taken over by Blackett and Vine Hall as heavy engineering works; from the early 1900's to the early 1980s it was the Huttons Smallgoods Factory. Deserted once again, its future is in doubt.

We heard about the murder of Robert Wardell in 1832 and the anonymous letter in the Sydney Gazette which, while lamenting the death of this famous lawyer and newspaper proprietor, also said that if Wardell had allowed a road to be built across his property and allowed the settlers south of Cooks River to use it, his property might not have been used as a hiding place for escaped convicts, and he might not have died so tragically!

The irony of the story is that one of the main roads which leads to the river is named Wardell Road.

Brian and Lesley also told us about the tours of the Canterbury Municipality that they hold from time to time and we hope that we might be able to have a heritage society tour in the not-too-distant future.

Finally our congratulations to Brian and Lesley who were married recently in the historic John Horbury Hunt designed chapel at the Rose Bay convent followed by a reception at History House in Macquarie Street. We wish them a long and happy married life together. Geoff Ostling.



War Service homes some of the most interesting domestic architecture in the Municipality of Canterbury.



ELEANOR ROOSEVELT IN AUSTRALIA

At the conclusion of our last meeting, I gave Lesley Muir and Brian Madden a press photograph for their society's archives. It shows Eleanor Roosevelt being greeted by John Curtin, Australia's war-time Prime Minister. I bought the photograph from a bric-a-brac shop a few years ago because of a personal association with the visit of the wife of American President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1943.

I lived in Beverley Hills from 1939-1959 and my sisters and I caught the train two stations to Herne Bay (now Riverwood) to see Eleanor when she visited American Servicemen at the U.S. war hospital there. My elder sister says we threw flowers into her car as she drove by; I don't remember, I was fourteen.

I did, however, want to check where the photo had been taken and the Sydney Morning Herald of Saturday, 4 September, 1943 (on microfilm at the State Library) provided the answer.

MRS ELEANOR ROOSEVELT IN AUSTRALIA
Canberra, Friday (3.9.43) by a special correspondent

ELEANOR ROOSEVELT LANDED AT FAIRBAIRN AERODROME, CANBERRA AT 3.26PM. SHE HAD TRAVELLED ACROSS THE TASMAN, MADE A BRIEF HALT AT KINGSFORD-SMITH AERODROME, SYDNEY, WHERE SHE WAS MET BY GOV. GENERAL AND LADY GOWRIE.

PRECEDED BY MEMBERS OF HER STAFF, MRS ROOSEVELT STEPPED FROM THE PLANE SHOWING NO TRACES OF FATIGUE FROM HER JOURNEY ACROSS THE PACIFIC.

HER ONLY MAKE-UP WAS A LITTLE LIGHT RED LIPSTICK. SHE WORE GREY SUEDE GLOVES AND CARRIED WITH HER NAVY BLUE LEATHER HANDBAG AN ENORMOUS BUNCH OF ORCHIDS, PRESENTED TO HER IN SYDNEY BY GENERAL EICHELBERGER ON BEHALF OF MRS MACARTHUR. WITH THE ORCHIDS WAS A LARGE BUNCH OF VIOLETS.

MRS ROOSEVELT IS 5ft 11in TALL AND HER PLAIN BLACK LEATHER LACE-UP SHOES HAD MEDIUM CUBAN HEELS. HER COTTON MESH STOCKINGS WERE IN A TONE OF PINKY BEIGE (Thankfully reporting has changed!)

IN CANBERRA SHE WAS WELCOMED BY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL AND LADY GOWRIE, THE PRIME MINISTER, MR CURTIN, AND MOST OF THE FEDERAL MINISTERS. SHE WAS SURROUNDED BY A THROG IN WHICH CAMERAMEN AND WAR CORRESPONDENTS PREDOMINATED.

SHE WORE THE AZURE-BLUE UNIFORM OF THE AMERICAN RED CROSS, THE SCARLET SHOULDER TABS MATCHED BY A GLIMPSE OF A WARM SCARLET COAT WORN UNDER THE FULL-LENGTH COAT OF HER UNIFORM. UNDER HER AZURE-BLUE KEPI WITH ITS RED CROSS BADGE, MRS ROOSEVELT'S GREYING HAIR IS SOFTLY WAVED.

On 8 September, the Sydney Morning Herald ran another story. The location of the hospital was not mentioned, for security reasons.

ELEANOR ROOSEVELT VISITED THE US BASE HOSPITAL. SHE LUNCED IN THE MESS WITH THE BATTLE CASUALTIES FROM NASSAU BAY, EACH WEARING A MAROON DRESSING GOWN OVER THE GREY HOSPITAL PYJAMAS. THE MENU WAS BAKED HAM, SWEET POTATOES AND SPINACH, AND APPLE PIE AND ICE CREAM.

On the same day "ITALY SURRENDERS TO THE ALLIES."
Shirley Hilyard

[Editorial note: The detailed word pictures of colour and clothing reflect a world before colour television].

LAUNCH OF HERITAGE 7

The Society's journal, Heritage 7, was successfully launched on 4 August at the Golden Barley Hotel, Enmore. The Golden Barley was chosen because of the Art Deco theme of the lead article in Heritage 7, and the Art Deco design for the cover. Over 100 people attended the launch, including all the authors, representatives of the Art Deco Society of NSW, and many members and friends. Each of the authors spoke briefly about the background to their articles. Geoff Ostling, author of the article "Two very different premiers", introduced Mr Jock McGowen, who had generously allowed the Society to publish some family photos of his grand-parents, Premier John McGowen and his wife Emily. The journal was officially launched by Society member Verona Rothwell, who had sponsored Heritage 7 in memory of Amy Needham. After the launching, many members stayed on for a meal at the Italian bistro at the Golden Barley. Jeannette Hope

THE IMPOSSIBLE DREAM?

This is the title of this year's Royal Australian Historical Society conference which will be held at the Parramatta Club on the weekend of 7th and 8th November. Please put these dates in your diary. The speakers are outstanding and it should be a most interesting conference. For more information or an application form, please ring Geoff Ostling at 568 3029.

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



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.

HERITAGE 8: CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Now that Heritage 7 is well and truly launched, we start work on Heritage 8! Do you have a family story, or an interesting tale to tell? Perhaps you have an idea for an article, but don't want to write it yourself. Even an old photograph can be the starting point, as shown by Shirley Hilyard's account of Eleanor Roosevelt's visit, in this issue of the Newsletter. If you would like to offer an article, suggest a topic, or help with the preparation and proof-reading of the journal, contact Jeannette Hope on 559 1431, or PO Box 702 Marrickville 2204.

RAFFLE WINNERS

The winners of the raffle at the launch of the journal HERITAGE 7 were Barbara Gibbons (opera tickets) and Imelda Stuart (framed engraving).

GROWING UP. IN MARRICKVILLE

Sandrine Llabres of Macquarie University, writes:

I am working on an oral history project exploring the experience of growing up in Marrickville in the 1950s and would like to invite any of your readers to contact me if they have memories they would like to share. I am particularly interested in talking to people who attended high school in the Marrickville Municipality (including Dulwich Hill, Enmore, Hurlstone Park, Lewisham, Marrickville, Newtown, Petersham, St Peters, Stanmore, Sydenham and Tempe) during the 1950s. I would like to get in touch with both Australian and overseas-born people who lived in Marrickville during this era.

If any readers would like to participate in our project they can contact me during working hours on (02) 319 0570, or write to me at the Sociology Department, Macquarie University, NSW, 2109.
Sandrine Llabres

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.