

MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY

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

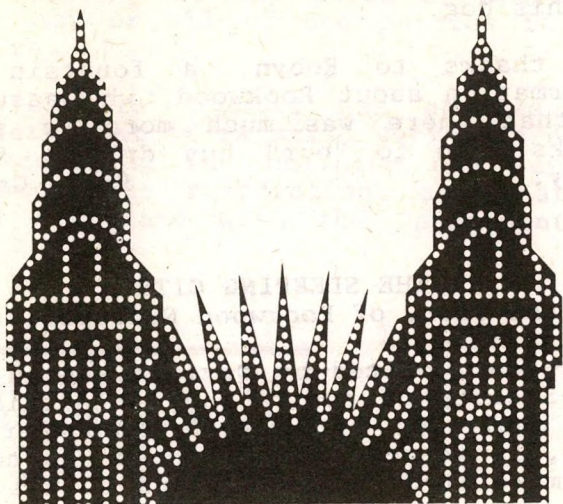
Marrickville, Petersham, St Peters, Stanmore,
Camperdown and Hurlstone Park.



OUR NEXT MEETING

LUNA PARK - JUST FOR FUN!

Saturday 24 October 1992, 10.30 am
Amenities Room, Petersham Town Hall



Do you remember when walking through the smiling face gateway at Luna Park was to enter another world - the heart-racing rides on the Big Dipper and all the fun to be had on the Dodgems, the Wild Mouse and in Coney Island?

Sam Marshall, a young Sydney architect, whose name is synonymous with the battle to Save Luna Park, will tell us of the beginnings of amusement park traditions and explain where Sydney's Luna Park - its art, architecture, rides and fun - came from.

He will give us details of the three-stage planning for the new Luna Park. The Luna Park Reserve Trust, set up last year by the State Government, is determined that the Smile will return to the face of Sydney when Stage One opens in September 1993.

Sam will show slides, answer our questions, and he hopes we will share our Luna Park stories with him.

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

SATURDAY 28 NOVEMBER: TOUR OF ST
STEPHENS CHURCH AND CEMETERY, NEWTOWN,
AND CHRISTMAS PICNIC. 10.30am.

One of Edmund Blackett's finest parish churches will be shown to us in detail by Dr Joan Kerr, Associate Professor of Fine Arts, Sydney University. Following the tour we will hold our Christmas Picnic in the grounds.

TUESDAY 15 DECEMBER: POTLUCK CHRISTMAS
DINNER

Our annual member's dinner to celebrate Christmas. Come along, bring a plate and enjoy the fun. Watch this space for details.

WEDNESDAY 30 DECEMBER: EVENING HARBOUR
CRUISE

The highlight of the Society's calendar, our annual harbour cruise aboard the yacht *Silver Spray*, with picnic on Clark Island. A magical evening - still only \$20! Anne Carolan is taking bookings on 417 4862. Be quick!

Mary Reibey
Interiors &
Gallery



224 Enmore Road
Enmore NSW 2042
Australia

Telephone
(02) 516 4902

FACES PALE by BRUCE GORDON

6th - 31st October

Gallery Hours: Wed 11am-4pm
Thur-Frid 11am-7pm Sat-Sun 11am-4pm

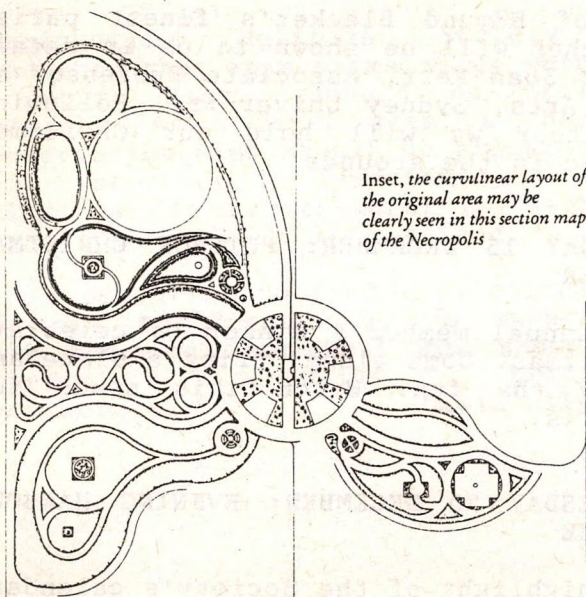
OUR LAST MEETING

TOUR OF ROOKWOOD NECROPOLIS

At Rookwood, brought together in death, are more than one million people from many cultural and religious groups.

During our tour, led by Robyn Hawes, a volunteer guide from Rookwood Tours, we saw the many different ways graves are marked and people commemorated. There are large areas of lawn cemetery, older sections of bushland with a few old headstones scattered among the trees, elaborate vaults and beautifully carved stones.

The war graves are neatly maintained, very ordered and serene, and nearby the Crematorium, which has been in operation since 1925, is set in beautiful gardens. Some of the sections we saw from the bus



were Maori, Jewish, Quaker, Chinese, Lutheran, Russian, Muslim, Croatian, Gypsy, Presbyterian, and the Italian vaults. We saw the graves of the comedian "Mo" in the Jewish section, of Jack Lang, former premier of NSW in the Catholic section, and of singer Peter Dawson in the Independent section.

On the fringe of the Catholic section, against the fence and beside the pauper burials of the St Vincent de Paul Society, are the headstones moved from Lewisham in 1920. They look extremely forlorn, repositioned in a hurry and forgotten ever since. Many of them remember natives of counties in Ireland.

After lunch we walked through part of the old Anglican section. The plantings here are rather wild and disordered, but on the whole very beautiful. We walked along the Serpentine Canal with its decorative ponds and bridges and remnants of once intricate gardens. At

one time there was a large nursery here and 76 gardeners were employed.

There are many century-old trees: magnolias, horizontal cedars, bunya, hoop and kauri pines, a lot of them showing signs of the harsh conditions under which they now grow. Although we were a little early for the best of the spring flowers we did see enormous azaleas, Indian hawthorns, wisteria and a beautiful white *Fortuneana* rose (1850).

Some of the interesting memorials we saw were to: Isaac Nichols, a convict who became the first Post Master; Andrew George Scott, alias Captain Moonlite; William Sixsmith, first locomotive driver; Jacob Pitman, Arkitekt, who introduced Fonetik Shorthand; Samuel Watson, teacher of the deaf; and the statue of the infamous Robert Handcock and his dog.

Our thanks to Robyn, a fountain of information about Rookwood, who assured us that there was much more to see. Thanks also to "our" bus driver, Eddy Berry.
Paula Gard.

THE SLEEPING CITY the Story of Rookwood Necropolis

This book, edited by David A. Weston for the Society of Australian Genealogists, and published by Hale & Iremonger in 1989, is recommended to those who could not make it to the tour, and to all who went, and want more information. Rookwood illustrations and epitaphs in this and the last newsletter are from *The Sleeping City*.

ROBERT HANDCOCK AND HIS DOG

"The commissioning of most sculpture and ostentatious monuments was regulated by money as well as custom. Robert Handcock, who died in 1876, saved the former and bypassed the latter. A prominent Sydney merchant, Handcock had a larger than life-sized statue [including his dog! JH] executed in Sydney sandstone in 1844 by the sculptor Charles Abrahams. Handcock directed that after his death this statue should be transferred to his grave in the old Anglican section of Rookwood."

The Sleeping City p. 38

WILLIAM ERNEST JONES
of Aberdare, Wales, died at Rookwood
whilst on a visit for the benefit of
his health.
4th February, 1899.

OLD TOWN HALL UPDATE

Negotiations over the future of the old Town Hall building in Illawarra Road, Marrickville, appear to have reached a stalemate. This is an unfortunate setback after prospects had looked much brighter earlier in the year.

In May the Department of Housing, which owns the building, called for tenders for the purchase and restoration of the building. Marrickville Council's was one of three tenders lodged and the Society had preliminary meetings with council staff to discuss possible uses for the building.

However, the Department of Housing has now advised Marrickville Council that it has not accepted any of the tenders and that "the tender process is now terminated". It may chose to negotiate with any or all of the parties in the future.

Marrickville Council has advised the Society that it is still very interested in acquiring the building and seeking its complete restoration, and that it will negotiate with the Department of

Housing if asked. We will keep members informed of the outcome.

Meanwhile the condition of the old Town Hall, which is one of Sydney's oldest municipal buildings, and is subject to a Permanent Conservation Order, continues to deteriorate.

Complaints were made to the Heritage Council of "demolition by neglect" and lack of maintenance of the building by the Department of Housing. Following an investigation, the Heritage Council has decided not to take action against the Department under the Heritage Act 1977.

However, the Heritage Council said it "views with concern" advice that deterioration of the building has occurred because of lack of proper maintenance and it "requests the Department of Housing to undertake immediate repairs to prevent further damage to the building caused by water penetration due to damaged guttering and downpipes and to secure the building".

Let's keep our fingers crossed.

Judith Matheson.

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

COOKS RIVER FESTIVAL

Sunday 18 October 1992, 10 am
Gough Whitlam Park, Bayview Avenue,
Undercliffe

The Society will have a stall, so if you can help on the day, or if you have plants, jam or bric-a-brac we can sell, please contact Shirley on 569 1768 or Sue on 519 9980.



Just to show how quickly the old Town Hall has deteriorated! This photograph was taken in the late 1970s by Bevan Wilson, a former principal of Marrickville Public School. The School occupied the building at the time. When this photo was taken the building was already 1000 years old, yet it is freshly painted, cared for, and the lions intact. To look at the building now you would barely recognise it.

FUTURE OF MARRICKVILLE HOSPITAL SITE

New developments have been proposed for the site of the old Marrickville Hospital more than a year after its closure in 1991.

Marrickville Council is considering a suggestion to buy the site from the State Government and establish its administrative centre there, with the current building in Fisher Street, Petersham being leased.

The hospital site has a number of buildings, including the 1931 hospital building listed in LEP 50, which features a large leadlight fan light over the entrance. Members of the Classifications Committee recently inspected the site and found that other buildings are of varying integrity and significance.

Marrickville Heritage Society is concerned that this prime site, which is a public asset, should be utilised properly. As a first step, a thorough Conservation Plan should be prepared for the precinct, identifying which buildings of architectural or heritage significance should be retained.

It is essential to find a practical use for the building soon, as experience with the old Town Hall has shown how quickly unoccupied buildings deteriorate.

David Hilyard.



STANMORE SOCIETY 15th BIRTHDAY PARTY

Sunday 1 November, 10am - 3pm
Weekley Park, Percival Rd, Stanmore

BBQ lunch, various stalls, historic bus rides, pony rides and fun for all.

Happy Birthday!

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

DO YOU REMEMBER THE TRAMS?

David Keenan of Petersham writes:

Many years ago I was co-author of a book "The Green Lines" which was a history of the former tramway services through Newtown and Marrickville. I am now rewriting and expanding this book for publication as one of a current series covering the various sections of the former Sydney tramway system.

While I already have a number of good photographs to illustrate the book, I am taking this opportunity to ask any readers if they know of any photographs that may be in family or friends' collections which show trams before about 1930. For example I have not yet located any photos of the official opening of the Cooks River Line in 1900 nor of the electrification of the Dulwich Hill Line the same year. The latter was a major local event with a large gathering of guests at Shrublands, Marrickville, with a "Continental" held there at night while local school children were granted a half holiday for a sports carnival.

I can be contacted most evenings at 569 8277 or by writing to 68 John St., Petersham, 2049.

David Keenan.

HANNAH E.A. MUDDLE

Mrs. Charles Muddle,
our mother.

Maiden name Hannah Elizabeth Cook.

A descendant of Capt. James Cook,
The Great Navigator.

7th May 1879. 66 years.

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 of fax 559 1431. Letters, suggestions, quotes, drawings, photos, cartoons, newspaper cuttings, coming events - all welcome.