

MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY INC.

COVERING DULWICH HILL, ENMORE, LEWISHAM,
SYDENHAM, TEMPE & PARTS OF NEWTOWN,

MARRICKVILLE, PETERSHAM, ST PETERS, STANMORE
CAMPERDOWN & HURLSTONE PARK



OUR NEXT MEETING THE STANMORE WALK

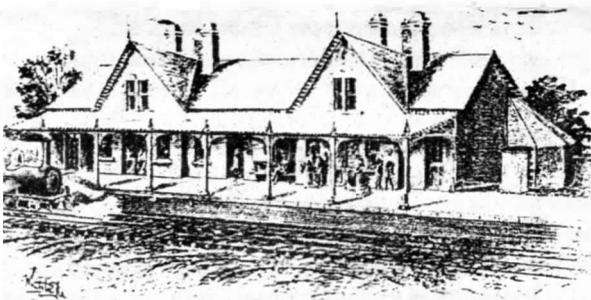
Saturday 23 May 10.30 am

Meet Stanmore Library north side of station.

Leader: Mark Maloney 9516 2788

Named by a wealthy saddler, John Jones, after his birthplace in Middlesex, England, Stanmore has changed from rural outpost and gentleman's retreat to a culturally and architecturally diverse urban community rich in history.

Stanmore today comprises the former Kingston estates granted to Lt. Thomas Rowley, surgeon Edmund Laing, and Captain George Johnston. Much of Laing's property was later incorporated into the suburb of Marrickville. Rowley's South Kingston holdings constitute part of the first Torrens Title subdivision in NSW. Urban release of Johnston's *South Annandale* farm began in 1892, many years after development of the neighbouring estates.



Stanmore Station north side a century ago

Join Heritage Watch/Classifications Committee convenor **Mark Maloney** – part owner of what is believed to be the longest surviving residence in modern day Stanmore – for a two hour walk on which you'll discover "the other Stanmore House", as well as former residences of Sir Henry Parkes, Olympian Fanny Durack, and a one-time Surveyor-General; the Johnston family's railway legacy; and the site once home to confectioner Darrell Lea and built by W H Paling, music store founder and prominent local citizen.

Hear about the curse of *Dundoos*, and the story behind *Hollinworth*, a fine residential flat building constructed in the International style to a design by McConnell Smith and Johnson in the early 1960s. For those who know the area, count the number of properties built or occupied by former mayors or MPs. Stanmore offers so much of interest. Why not come along?

MARK MATHESON & PAUL DAVIES WIN NATIONAL TRUST AWARDS

The Society congratulates MHS member Mark Matheson on winning a 1998 Energy Australia National Trust Heritage Award in the Individuals Category for his book *Victorian Villas of Marrickville / Newtown*. The judges described the publication (produced for Marrickville Library) as "a project from an individual passionate about his environment. Dedication and skill is evident in the author's ability to present local heritage in an accessible and visually pleasing manner". A copy can be obtained from Marrickville Library or Mark (9559 5502) for \$10.

Capping off a remarkable week for St Clements Anglican Church Marrickville, Conservation Architect Paul Davies won an award in the Community Groups Category for reconstruction and conservation of the church spire (see story on Marrickville Medal). The judges noted the strong community support and a public appeal which saved the spire, a prominent landmark, from near demolition. The MHS publication *Marrickville Remembers* was also an entrant in the Community Group category.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

It seems this year is going faster than usual because our AGM is coming up on 27 June. This is when we elect our committee for 1998/99. If you'd like to become more involved in the running of MHS please ring Richard on 9557 3823. More details in June newsletter.

DINNER AT PERAMA

MHS went Greek on Wednesday 15 April when a score of gourmets enjoyed a delectable banquet at Petersham's Perama restaurant. Such was the enthusiasm that a tender has already been put in for another such outing later in the year. We thank Anne Catton for organising this tremendous evening.

A new postcode has been assigned to post box addresses care of Marrickville Post Office. Marrickville's postcode is unchanged as is our post box number. Our new postal address is **PO Box 415 Marrickville 1475**.

Fancy a more strenuous walk on an 1820s convict trail amidst great scenery? Soon!
Details on back page

OUR LAST MEETING

DAVID MCBEATH ON BRICKMAKING & TILEMAKING

David McBeath, our speaker in Heritage Week, is a materials conservator par excellence. His knowledge of materials science grows apace with each new job as his motto is "if it's been done before it can be done again".

Illustrated by slides he told of his research and work on the conservation of the Railway Institute beside Central Railway, for decades suffering sulphurous soot from trains and latterly modern pollution. Bricks of eight different profiles were needed for replacement of decorative detailing. These he handmade from a clay deposit at Bringelly. The drying and firing of these 300-400 bricks was critical. We saw examples of overcooking resulting in colour changes or shrinkage (just like the top of a cake where the cracks can always be disguised with icing!). This work won him, in conjunction with Public Works, a Horbury Hunt Award for Excellence in Brickwork in 1996.

David touched on his work with terracotta including the garden urns, fountain and a bust of Captain Cook at *St Aubins* a house near Scone built by William Bakewell in 1888. These splendid garden ornaments from Bakewell's Pottery, Erskineville are suffering from salt damage caused by bore water used to water the garden.

With colleague Warren Moorfoot he has made tiles for *Boomerang* Elizabeth Bay and in the vaulted mural in the Bridge Street entrance to the Lands Department. At *Vaucluse House* they made tiles to replicate those crafted by Tobias Strino of Naples and brought back to Sydney by WC Wentworth in 1853. Although the tiles were rejected by The Historic Houses Trust, David still found the project exciting. It was with a sense of amazement at his skill and indeed excitement that we thanked David McBeath for sharing with us his involvement in the Heritage Industry.

Shirley Hilyard

CALLING ORAL HISTORIANS

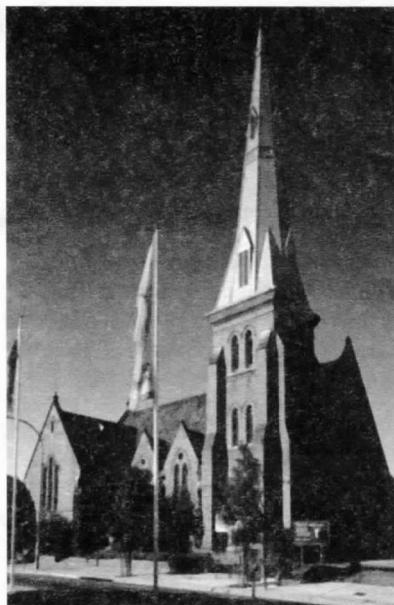
As a result of the Marrickville Remembers project, I have become aware of the need for this Society to be active in collecting oral histories of residents past and present. So much valuable information can be lost if the memories are not recorded – they literally go to the grave.

We would like to establish an **Oral History Group** of about 8-10 interviewers. With this number, no one would be asked to do more than one or two interviews a year. We already have the recording equipment and a good skills base. If you are interested please ring Angela for an **obligation-free** chat (9564 6370 after hours).

Angela Phippen

SPIRE WINS MEDAL

The 1998 Marrickville Medal has been won by St Clements Anglican Church, Marrickville for the restoration of the historic spire. Saved from certain demolition through lack of funds following a spirited protest by this Society in 1995 and a successful community appeal, the spire was restored *using exemplary conservation techniques*.



Newly-restored St Clements Anglican Church spire Marrickville (Brett Boardman Photography)

Two Commendations were awarded. One went to Petersham TAFE in Gordon Street for the *excellent adaptive reuse* from the former 1878 GA Mansfield Petersham Public School, later girls high school. The second went to the 1894 *Labrina* (since sold) a two storey Victorian villa in West Street, Lewisham which had been divided into flats. This was

described as a *good example for anyone working with a period house*. Congratulations to all concerned with these projects.

The presentation ceremony, compered by Hector Abrahams, took place at the intimate Chrissie Cotter Gallery, Camperdown on Monday 27 April. The Medal was awarded by Bruce Baskerville from the Heritage Office who also officially opened the Exhibition of Bricks and Pottery of the Marrickville area, one of several activities that week organised by Marrickville Council's Heritage Promotions Committee.

The panel of judges comprised architect Matthew Devine (jury chairman who gave a slide presentation of all the Medal entries), conservation architect Peter McLaren, and MHS Heritage Watch/Classifications committee convenor Mark Maloney. Peter and Mark are also MHS members.

The Viva String Quartet provided splendid background music. Peter Arnett, Manager Planning Services, Marrickville Council made special mention of the valuable contributions of the voluntary work of the Marrickville Heritage Society. Peter thanked organiser Libby Maher for her tireless work and Hector Abrahams, who is stepping down after several years as Heritage Promotions Committee convenor.

Richard Blair

CAMPERDOWN CEMETERY'S NATURAL HERITAGE

Marrickville's long history of European settlement and associated clearing of natural habitats leads many to believe the area is devoid of items of natural heritage significance. However, there are still remnants of Marrickville's original vegetation and wildlife, and their scarcity makes them locally and regionally significant, and worthy of attention and conservation.

Those who attended last October's post RAHS Conference walk around O'Connell Town, finishing in Camperdown Cemetery, may have been as excited as I was to see the beautiful swathes of flowering Kangaroo Grass and Plume Grass (*Dichelachne crinita*) around the grave sites, as well as other native grasses, native lilies, ferns and herbs. All are remnant understorey species of the original Turpentine Ironbark Forest which existed on this site before European settlement. (Remnant vegetation also rests in peace in many of our old cemeteries!)

In company with Jen Kirk of Marrickville Community Nursery, I introduced Tamsyn Taylor of Camperdown Cemetery Trust to the remnant vegetation, pointing out the inappropriate "tidying up" (also known as mowing) that had occurred. The Marrickville Heritage Society wrote to the Cemetery Trust and to Doug Benson, Senior Plant Ecologist with the Royal Botanic Gardens of its significance and need for protection. We asked Doug for his opinion and he replied:

"The grassy areas at the western end of the Cemetery include quite extensive areas of Kangaroo Grass (*Themeda australis*) as well as *Dichelachne* and occasional plants of *Dianella*. This would have originally been part of the understorey of the Turpentine Ironbark Forest of the area and it is pleasing to see the extent of the Kangaroo Grass surviving here both growing on the graves and in more open areas. The value of these grassland remnants should be recognised as part of the Cemetery's heritage and can provide seed material for local revegetation programs. Regular mowing of these areas should be avoided particularly when the grasses are flowering. Herbicide use should also be avoided."

Doug's reply was passed on to the Cemetery Trust and to Marrickville Council. Marrickville Community Nursery is propagating Kangaroo Grass, Plume Grass and a few native Flax Lilies from seed I collected last December. We hope this wonderful living reminder of Marrickville's pre-settlement forested days is truly allowed to rest (and flourish) in peace!

Danie Ondinea

Footnote: The Cooks River Foreshores Working Party is funding production of a booklet, tentatively titled *A Guide to the Native Vegetation of the Cooks River Valley* by Doug Benson (August 1996 MHS guest speaker) and Danie Ondinea.

MHS NEWSLETTERS INDEXED

He's done it! In last October's newsletter former MHS president Bob Thompson (1986-87) wrote offering to index all the MHS newsletters since June 1984. True to his word, Bob has achieved this no small task.

Completed to June 1996, Bob has the data on disk and plans to bring it up to date. The index will be a very useful research tool. Copies will be held by Marrickville Library, Council's Archivist and the Society. Bob has produced only a handful of copies, but can provide a copy for a small charge. For further information ring Richard on 9557 3823 or Bob on 02 6551 0485.

SIR JOSEPH BANKS HOTEL

Members familiar with this imposing heritage-listed edifice in Botany may be interested to know a DA has gone before Botany Bay City Council for "restoration / renovation of the Hotel and construction of 12 three-bedroom townhouses". It is planned to demolish two associated buildings. One to keep an eye on.

CONDOLENCES

The Society regrets the April passing of several people with local connections. **Beryl Le Clos** (7th, aged 87) lived her whole life in Marrickville and was President of the Marrickville Combined Pensioners for many years. **Frederick Newnham** (12th, aged 94) was twice mayor of Newtown in the 1930s and was a notable Newtown-based solicitor till about five years ago, once representing Harold Lasseter for the legendary gold reef.

We remember **Don Monk** particularly for giving MHS free use of his 1890s villa *Tretheway* in Petersham for our tenth anniversary celebrations in April 1994. **Shirley (Mum Shirl) Smith** (28th, aged 74) was a tireless worker in the Aboriginal community, fostering countless children. Formerly of Stanmore, Shirley was Marrickville's 1998 Citizen of the Year.

Rain has relocated the Erskineville walk to Sunday 31 May. Meet at Erskineville Station at 2.30pm. Enquiries Shirley Doolan 9516 2123.

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CALENDAR OF MHS EVENTS

SATURDAY MAY 23

Stanmore walk with Mark Maloney

Details on front page

SUNDAY MAY 31

Walk up Convict Trail at Wiseman's Ferry

Details this page

SUNDAY JUNE 21

Summer of the Seventeenth Doll

Details this page

SATURDAY JUNE 27

Annual General Meeting.

Kathy Jones talks on Airport Link Railway

CONVICT TRAIL WALK UP OLD GREAT NORTH ROAD

Sunday 31 May 8.20–8.30 am

Meet at carpark opposite Petersham Town Hall

The convict trail along the Great North Road dates from 1826. Governor Ralph Darling wanted to encourage farm settlements north of Sydney. Using pickaxes and explosives, and under extremely harsh conditions, convicts built the 264 kilometre road from Parramatta Road, Five Dock to Newcastle in seven years.



Hawkesbury & MacDonald Rivers, Wiseman's Ferry
(photo: Jocelyn Powell)

To mark the last day of autumn we are driving to Wiseman's Ferry for the hilly, but easy and leisurely paced 8-10 kilometre round walk from the Wiseman's Ferry punt starting about 10 am. Not only will we learn about this historic engineering achievement and the recent heritage conservation project, we can also admire the wonderful scenery and be aerobically enhanced. Those wanting the shorter walk to Devine's Hill can then enjoy the township, its cafe and historic hotel.

Wear good walking shoes and sun protection; bring lunch and drinks. For bookings, matching passengers up with car drivers, or if raining on day **contact tour leader Mark Matheson 9559 5502 (after 13 May).**

EDITORIAL

The planned Sydenham Green

Is simply obscene.

(Haven't they done enough damage already?)

Richard Blair, Editor

PERMANENT CONSERVATION ORDERS ACCORDING TO LEO

Leo Schofield in his 11/4/98 SMH column wrote:

"We learn now that a Permanent Conservation Order doesn't ensure permanent conservation. A spokesperson for Planning Minister Craig Knowles told the *Herald*, probably with a straight face, that under a Permanent Conservation Order sections of the permanently conserved building may be removed."

"Shouldn't we then refer to it as an Impermanent Conservation Order or a Semi-Permanent Conservation Order or a Partially Variable Permanent Conservation Order. Or a Permanent Conservation Order That May Be Varied Depending On Ministerial Whim Or Developer Pressure." Onya Leo!

ANYONE FOR DÉCOUPAGE?

Congratulations to the Society's secretary Joyce Roy on winning first prize for découpage in the Arts and Crafts at the Royal Easter Show. What is découpage? The Concise Oxford describes it as *decoration of surfaces with paper cut-outs*. But if you want to find out more go to the Découpage Guild of NSW's exhibition of members' work at the Wesley Conference Centre 220 Pitt Street Sydney on Saturday 13 June 2.30 pm – 4.30 pm. Ring Joyce 9519 9228 for further details.

To mark the 160th anniversary of **St Peters Cooks River Anglican Church** the first of four winter concerts will be held on Sunday 17 May at 4.30 pm. Michael Deasey will give an organ recital followed by music for stringed instruments. Fireside meal and special guest Service after.

THEATRE PARTY TO THE DOLL

Here's a chance to see the classic Australian play *Summer of the Seventeenth Doll* by Ray Lawler at the New Theatre (established in 1932). The Society is organising a theatre party but prepayment is required by 2 June.

Date and time Sunday 21 June 5.30 pm

Venue New Theatre 542 King Street Newtown

Cost \$17 (party booking)

Bookings Cheri 9557 3144 (after 6 pm) asap

PRESIDENT/NEWSLETTER Richard 9557 3823

HERITAGE WATCH Mark 9516 2788

TREASURER Harold 9569 5183

INFOLINE Joyce 9519 9228