

# 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 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Petersham Town Hall Saturday 27 June 10.30 am

The outgoing MHS committee invites all members to the Society's fourteenth Annual General Meeting to be chaired by our president Richard Blair. Major reports on the Society's activities will be presented and elections will be held for the 1998/99 committee. All positions will be declared vacant. Nominations are called for president, two vice-presidents, treasurer, secretary, assistant secretary, four committee members, membership secretary and convenor, Heritage Watch & Classifications committee. Nominations may be made in writing to the Society or on the day.

Following formal proceedings, our guest speaker **Kathy Jones** Public Affairs Manager, Transfield Bouygues Joint Venture will give an overview of the Airport Link Railway Project and the future Wolli Creek Railway Station at Cooks River. We may hear about those old sandstone blocks, the convict dam, Tempe House, the underwater forest and evidence of Aboriginal occupation. Kathy will tell us about the incredible TBM. The what? Come along and find out.

Around 12.30 pm join the new committee for lunch at nearby Maundrell Park (weather permitting). We will provide drinks, but bring a plate of sandwiches to share.

## WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Graham & Judith Baldwin, Keith Johnson, Dulwich Hill; Franc Conn & Stephen Crook, David Sampson, Marrickville; Janet McNulty, Peter Robertson, Maureen Salier, Stanmore; Bus & Truck Museum, Tempe; Sue Ryerson, Canterbury; Gary Luke, Erskineville; Chloe Sampson, Kogarah.

The Society is especially looking for a) a treasurer, and b) an assistant secretary whose main role is to organise the delivery of newsletters to runners and maintain membership records. A car is essential. Would suit a couple. Please ring 9569 5183 or 9557 3823 for further information.

Why not get in early and pay your 1998/99 subs?  
Send a cheque or pay the treasurer at the AGM.

## SO LONG CLAREVILL

*Clarevill* which was at 47 Railway Road Sydenham has been demolished. This was one of the few buildings saved from destruction during the 1995/96 decimation of Sydenham when about 150 houses disappeared. (Members were given permission to go inside during the MHS Sydenham walk in July 1996.) It was to be handed over to Marrickville Council "for community use".

This two storey house, built in 1883 by Mr T Quinn, remained in the Quinn family till 1985 after which it was renovated. The 1995 Sydenham Community Study by Tropman & Tropman described it as a "Victorian filigree two storey residential house. Face brick, rendered, to street (front elevation). Tiled roof, timber floors and windows. Renovated though retains many internal features (high quality). Note sandstone and palisade fence. Regionally rare, representative example of its architectural style."



*Clarevill in 1996* (photo: Richard Blair)

It is not clear who authorised the demolition, however the Commonwealth Department of Transport continued to have responsibility for Clarevill after 1995 and did virtually nothing to protect the building against vandalism and neglect. Marrickville Council is to receive two million dollars for the proposed Sydenham Green project which presumably will include 19 Railway Road, the only remaining unoccupied historic building. One cannot be too optimistic for its preservation especially with plans to upgrade and widen that road.

Members are urged to read the 1995 Sydenham Community Study, at Marrickville Library. It could have been subtitled "How to disembowel a suburb?" The house stories and oral histories tell of families reluctant to leave after long standing occupation. Now the "regionally rare" Clarevill has also disappeared.

Richard Blair

## HERITAGE WEEK 26 APRIL-6 MAY

Yes, it was more than a Week and great stamina was required. Not only had the Marrickville Council Heritage Promotion Committee planned a range of activities, with the MHS talk (David McBeath's Brick and Tiles)\* linked into their theme of *Bricks and Potteries of the Marrickville area* but outside our boundaries was an enormous array to excite the heritage-minded.



Hector Abrahams, conservation architect, led a walk around Petersham and some of its handsome brick buildings. He challenged MHS to research two very early houses, one in Albert Street with its altered facade would not rate a second glance and the other *Charlesville* hidden from view behind the Commonwealth Bank in Audley Street. The tour ended at TAFE Crystal Street Petersham where we met Beverley Garlick, architect who designed the award-winning addition to the former Public School in 1983. The result is a campus happily oriented away from a very busy area and with stunning views from the roof.



At Chrissie Cotter Gallery, Camperdown (an appropriate venue as it was the site of Fowlers Pottery) an exhibition of clay products – bricks, pipes, crockery, vases and decorative items – was curated by MHS members Robert Hutchinson and Donna Braye, also Marrickville Library Local Studies

Librarian. It was also the venue for the Marrickville Medal presentation\* and three nights of excellent slide-illustrated talks. Robert Hutchinson (pictured) spoke of the former brick and pottery works of the area. Either by slide or actual items we saw the range of their output mostly from local collections.

Catriona Angus of International Conservation Services gave us an insight into the world of a materials conservator. As well as all kinds of ceramics restored to full beauty Catriona showed unforgettable images of her work as a consultant in Vietnam on temples of brick laid without mortar that are slowly crumbling. Catriona has also been commissioned to restore the Captain Cook bust long keeping watch over Cooks River.

In the last of the series Paul Davies, conservation architect illustrated his talk on seven local brick churches and the attendant problems of age, pollution, water penetration (up and down), lack of maintenance and funds. He has provided many satisfying solutions especially at St Clements, Marrickville with its wonderful new shimmering spire. We were able to congratulate Paul on the two awards the spire attracted in Heritage Week.\*

There was just enough time for your reporter to go to Susannah Place, The Rocks and hear *the wit and wisdom of the man who engineered green bans across The Rocks during the seventies* – Jack Munday. Then to revisit Rose Bay Cottage, a remarkable rediscovery of a John Verge house. It was a “landmark conservation exercise” that earned awards for MHS member Alan Croker of Design 5 Architects for returning it to a private home of great but simple beauty.

Finally editor and reporter joined a packed Sydney Town Hall to hear Robert Hughes “that bloody expat” (his own description) give the fourth National Trust Heritage Lecture. A consummate speaker who told us what we already know about our pathetic history in dealing with our built environment. It was a litany of loss.

An exhausting time, and all concerned, especially Libby Maher, deserve much praise.

\* Reported in May Newsletter

Shirley Hilyard

(Thanks to Marrickville Council Heritage Promotion Committee – Hector Abrahams (outgoing convenor), Richard Blair, Donna Braye, Avril Chiswell, Matthew Devine, Robert Hutchinson, Cheri Lutz and Libby Maher, whose coordination of activities was stupendous. – Editor)

## ANY OLD HERITAGE JOURNALS?

If any member has a *Heritage* journal he/she no longer wants (good grief!), plans to throw away (great Scott!), or otherwise has no further use for (sacre bleu!) please let us know. We are particularly interested in back copies of Heritage 3 (orange cover), Heritage 5 (green cover) and Heritage 8 (pink cover).

We still have several sets for sale now reduced to \$75 a set. Heritage 4, 6, 7 and 9 are still available at \$10 a copy whilst the Heritage 1/2 reprint is now only \$8. The Index to Journals #1-7 is \$1. Postage extra. All on sale at Petersham-based meetings. A list of journal contents is available on request. If you'd like to return or buy any journals please ring either Richard (9557 3823) or Harold (9569 5183).

## KING STREET/ENMORE ROAD DCP

The second community workshop for this Heritage and Urban Design Development Control Plan, held on 5 May was well attended by local interested people. The DCP being drafted by consultants Keys Young and Godden Mackay “will determine controls for new infill buildings and for alterations and additions. It will encourage development which demonstrates an appreciation of the area's urban character and which acknowledges and responds to its heritage value”.

After exhibition for further comment, the draft DCP will be presented to Council.

## OUR LAST MEETING STANMORE WALK

One of the great things about Mark Maloney's walking tour of Stanmore (attended by almost sixty people on Saturday 23 May) was that it covered the full range of the suburb's historical development, from the construction of Major Johnston's beautiful house at his Annandale Estate to the subdivision of the whole suburb in the last quarter of the nineteenth century, and beyond, to the demolitions and redevelopment which have brought the suburb to its present state.

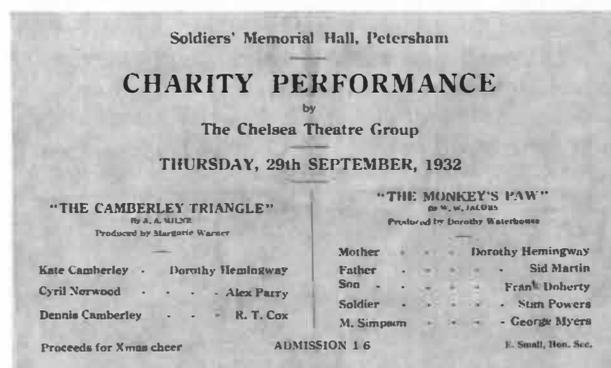
We also saw the full range of building types which resulted from this development: the massive dwelling developments such as *Hughenden Terrace*, the grand houses such as *Essington* and *Horaceville*, as well as the tiny cottages (including the late Mum Shirl's house); Stanmore Public School (whose most famous pupil was arguably Test cricketer Sid Barnes) and institutional buildings; the shops and offices (what nasty developments are proposed for the elegant Percival Road shopping village!); and – oh for joy – those lovely red brick unit blocks!

We also saw the results of the widely differing approaches to conservation of those properties. Nowhere was this more poignantly expressed than in Cambridge Street, where the beautifully conserved house *The Lodge* faces a formerly elegant terrace which has now been almost totally obscured by a flat mask of dull brick. But overall, what a lovely little corner of our teeming city! Many thanks to Mark for an excellent tour through a fascinating suburb.

Peter McLaren

**Editor's note** The late theatre director May Hollinworth, remembered by the 1960s *Hollinworth* in Cambridge Street, was a friend and associate of member Norman McVicker, of Mudgee, who owned the Pocket Playhouse in Sydenham (see Heritage 6 article).

## WINTER TRIVIA QUESTIONS



This 1932 theatre programme (from Robert Hutchinson's ephemera) poses questions for long memories. Where was/is the Soldiers' Memorial Hall, Petersham? Does anyone recall the Chelsea Theatre Group and its members? Do you know anyone who attended this performance? On the back of the program is an ad for Bushells "multi-refined" tea! Write to or ring Richard 9557 3823.

## DA FOR 92-96 PERCIVAL ROAD

The Society has written to Marrickville Council opposing a Development Application at 92-96 Percival Road Stanmore near Myrtle Street for "a mixed commercial/residential development containing three shops, caretaker's residence, 24 one bedroom dwellings, street parking for 16 vehicles and demolition of the rear first floor". MHS opposes the DA on the grounds of a) bulk and scale – this proposed insensitive development is totally out of keeping with the low rise nature of this shopping precinct listed in the 1986 Marrickville Heritage Study; and b) precedent.

The draft DCP produced for Marrickville Council by heritage consultants Brian McDonald & Associates in 1996 states "this retail building is part of the record of the first significant development of the area during the late 19th-early 20th century. It is a fine example of Federation Freestyle and an important contributor to the historic townscape character of Percival Road with a scale and bulk sympathetic to the adjoining buildings and is considered of local aesthetic and historic significance."

This attractive shopping village no doubt needs revitalisation and therefore sound planning input. A smaller scale development would still bring more residents to the area and may be quite acceptable, depending on its characteristics.

## OLD GREAT NORTH ROAD WALK

31 May Dharug National Park, near Wiseman's Ferry – glorious day, great company, spectacular river views, collective admiration for the men who, under abysmal conditions, built this convict trail with high walling, buttresses, culverts, and drains quarried from the country sandstone. Thanks to Mark Matheson for leading 22 members and friends on our first MHS bushwalk. May there be more!

## OUR GREEN ADVERTISERS

Members may have noticed that Leichhardt Garden Centre has ceased advertising with the newsletter, though the business is still going strong. Owner Wally Pickering formerly owned Shrubs & Tubs in Petersham and opened the LGC in 1991, selling S&T to David Klarnett. An ad for S&T first appeared in Heritage 6 in 1990, and both nurseries advertised with our newsletter from September 1991. So thanks for your patronage Wally. Meanwhile Shrubs and Tubs continues to grace our pages and David will happily assist with any nursery needs.

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## CALENDAR OF MHS EVENTS

**SATURDAY JUNE 27**

**Annual General Meeting**

**Kathy Jones talks on Airport Link Railway**  
Details on front page

**SATURDAY 25 JULY**

**\*Tour of Castlereagh – a 1790s Settlement & Rouse Hill House inspection**

**SATURDAY 22 AUGUST**

**\*Robert Hutchinson presents a pictorial ramble from Newtown to Marrickville**

**SATURDAY 26 SEPTEMBER**

**\*Picton & Thirlmere Railway Museum**

\* subject to change pending Federal election

## NORFOLK ISLAND TRIP MAY 6-13

This was the first time a group from the Marrickville Heritage Society has left the shores of mainland Australia though it is a strange anomaly that a passport (or Certificate of Entry) is needed to visit this part of Australia, albeit two and a half hours flying time from Sydney. Norfolk is a truly beautiful island, unspoiled by over-commercialisation, even though duty-free shopping is an attraction and tourists are often almost as numerous as the local population. Yes, and cars are still required to give way to wandering cattle.



*Norfolk Island tour group – Back left to right: Mark Matheson, Ina Penning, John Blattman, June Cameron, Ken Turner, Ann Flynn, Neil Patrick, Allan Rees, Robyn Stacey. Front clockwise from left: Joe Chapman, Geoff Ostling, Max Fitch, Margaret Lofts, Barry Lofts, (Captain James Cook) Jean Hale, Richard Blair, Sylvia Hale, Peter McLaren, John McKenzie, Ellie McKenzie. Not in photo: Jean Forrest.*

During our visit an important referendum took place on the Island as to whether the Kingston and Arthur's Vale Historic Area (KAVHA) should be given a World Heritage Listing. Our tour leader Peter McLaren maintains that the work done here in recent decades "has transformed the area into probably the best maintained historic area in Australia and the south west Pacific". Peter worked for nine years as Heritage Architect to

the KAVHA Board and thus has an intimate knowledge of the area and good connections. Peter's enthusiasm and ability to interpret the restored buildings, the ruins and the history of this penal settlement gave us an appreciation unavailable to most visitors. Not only did he share his vast knowledge of Norfolk Island's heritage, but his commentaries were often spiced with apt quotes and in the lovely St Barnabas Church Peter sang a capella the Pitcairn Anthem.

Shortly after the final convicts left the Island in 1856, Norfolk became home to the Pitcairn Islanders, "descended from participants in the most famous naval mutiny in modern history". Pitcairn descendants still constitute a third of the Island population, which is protected by rigid immigration rules.

One highlight of our visit was a traditional Pitcairn feast, specially prepared for our group and partaken at the 1851 Royal Engineer's Office. Our week in Norfolk Island was a culturally rich and enthralling experience, thanks hugely to Peter and his Island cohorts.

**Richard Blair**

**Notes** 1. The referendum was unanimously lost! 2. Captain Thomas Rowley commanded Norfolk for eight months in 1799-1800. He acquired land grants including Kingston Farm in present day Stanmore/Camperdown. Could there be a connection between this name and Kingston, Norfolk Island? 3. Our host at Longridge restaurant was David Brook born in Bethesda Hospital, Marrickville. 4. Well done Jean Hale who at eighty something participated in most of the group activities.

## THE SOCIETY CONGRATULATES

**Foundation member Edna Andrews and husband Bob** who recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary at a memorable family gathering. . . .

**and also Jack Munday** on receiving an honorary Doctor of Letters from UWS and an honorary Doctor of Science from UNSW. On accepting the latter Jack, during an Occasional Address, said he "accepted the honour personally but also on behalf of all Green Ban campaigners and social activists who had fought for human rights, Aborigines, women, gays and the deprived, and against war and apartheid".

## PIANO LESSONS

Private tuition Beginners welcome  
Reasonable rates for adults and children

Ring Anne 9517 2925

**PRESIDENT/NEWSLETTER** Richard 9557 3823

**HERITAGE WATCH** Mark 9516 2788

**TREASURER** Harold 9569 5183

**INFOLINE** Joyce 9519 9228