

MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY

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

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

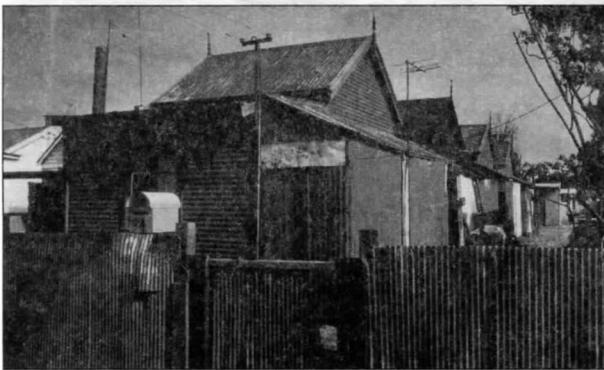


OUR NEXT MEETING

**CORRUGATED IRON – TALK BY
HERITAGE ARCHITECT ANNE WARR
Saturday 22 November 10.30 am
Petersham Town Hall**

Much of Australia's history can be told through the story of **corrugated iron** where a flat sheet is folded, fluted, grooved or waved, thereby increasing its stiffness and strength. It was first applied to iron sheets and patented by Henry Palmer, a London engineer in 1829. Shortly after, it appeared in Australia and has been part of our building vocabulary ever since, being first used for verandahs and later as entire buildings, as pictured below.

During Australia's gold rushes of the 1850s, emigrants arrived with a pre-fabricated dwelling, components numbered for easy assembly along with similar portable hotels, shops and churches. *Art & Architecture 1905* stated – *Whether or not ... Hell is made of galvanised iron, Queensland is certainly roofed with it.*



When supplies from Britain were cut off during World War One it was time for Australia to establish its own sheet rolling, corrugating and galvanising industry. Corrugated iron, with its distinctive forms, strong patterns and overall simplicity continues to interest contemporary architects. **Anne Warr** is Manager Heritage Group Department of Public Works. Anne's illustrated talk on her "favourite subject" is the third in our series on building material and its history.

The third Marrickville Heritage Study Review meeting will be held on Tuesday 25 November at Petersham Town Hall at 5.45 for 6 pm. Ring Libby Maher 9335 2114 for transport home or other details.

CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT

At the recent RAHS annual conference a Certificate of Achievement was awarded posthumously to former president John Zinsmeester for *his active and inspirational commitment to the conservation of the built environment of the Marrickville area*. John, who was President of MHS from 1995 to 1997 and convenor of the Heritage Watch & Classifications committee for over two years, died last June. The Certificate was presented by Hazel Hawke, Chair of the Heritage Council of NSW, and was accepted by John's sister Ellie McKenzie, who recently joined the Society.

STOP PRESS:

WE'RE NOW INCORPORATED

At the special general meeting held at Petersham Town Hall on Saturday 25 October all four motions indicated in the October newsletter were carried unanimously by the members present. Following our application a Certificate of Incorporation was issued on 5 November. Thanks go to our elected Public Officer, Harold Welsh for all his work in organising this.

FAMOUS PIANISTS PLAY FAMOUS PIANO MUSIC PRESENTED BY DENIS CONDON & POT LUCK SUPPER

A night with Denis Condon and his reproducing pianos and rolls is an evening to be treasured and long remembered. Reproducing pianos go beyond the pianola by also conveying most of the nuances of the rolls. Not only does Denis have the foremost reproducing piano roll collection in Australia, he has restored several reproducing pianos which *can create an atmosphere which is unique. The spirit of the pianist seems to be evoked in an eerie re-enactment of the original performance which may have been recorded a hundred years ago.*

Denis has kindly agreed to have MHS members in his home as guests in his chambre des pianos. Numbers are limited to thirty so be quick. Members are asked to bring a plate for pot luck supper plus a \$2 donation towards the tuning of the pianos.

Date & time: Friday 5 December at 7.30 pm sharp.
Bookings essential: Angela 9564 6370
Note: This event replaces our usual pot luck dinner.

OUR LAST MEETING

BRONWYN LAYTON ON ARCANE DELIGHTS OF TRADESMEN'S BILLS

What possible interest could a modern audience have in lists of household goods seized by the bailiffs during the depression of the 1890s or a collection of bills submitted by the plumbers and plasterers of the past to a Catholic-based permanent building society? **Considerable** interest, judging by the reaction of members at our Saturday 25 October meeting. Guest speaker Bronwyn Layton is the project archivist currently unravelling the wealth of information contained in a unique collection of bills, receipts and similar documents from the **St Josephs Investment & Building Society** (1868-1979) held by the Society of Australian Genealogists.

Regarded as ephemera, most documents of this kind have been thrown away. Luckily there are always a few cranks who keep everything, eg accounts paid in Glasgow by John Dunmore Lang 160 years ago have enabled me to understand how a *Bounty* ship was equipped for her voyage to Australia. Bronwyn's new archival resource fascinates us with details such as the use of suet to make windows slide. Already we realise the significance of records which list both tenant and owner concurrently and therefore show many itinerant people who never appeared in the Sands indexes. (This information comes from, of all places, the records of night soil collectors!) Who is to say what arcane delights the researchers of the late 21st century will find in this curious collection?

Some possible avenues of enquiry may include: differences in educational standards, the role of women in working class society of the nineteenth century, the technology and work practices of the day, or the extent of kalsomine inflicted on our suburbs by the well-meaning but misguided tradesmen of the past! Bronwyn's talk (organised by Angela Phippen) was lavishly illustrated by examples, which included wonderful drawings on bill heads of business houses long demolished and products long unused.

John Edwards

(NB Druitt Town was former name of Strathfield South. Bronwyn would love to ascertain the derivation of the name *Lisgar* - Editor.)

1997 RAHS ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The former (Chesty) Bonds factory, now Sydney University's Faculty of Nursing, in Camperdown was the venue for this year's RAHS Local History Conference held on 11-12 October (attended by several MHS members) whose theme was *Putting History Back into the Community*. Clever conference planning included the segment *adaptive reuse of heritage buildings and sites* where Trevor Williams discussed converting the Bonds building to its current use. The conference demonstrated that not only can history be made more accessible (signage

panels in Canterbury district raising heritage awareness), but it can be made integral to social concerns (Western Australian heritage walking tours incorporating health issues).

Other features were a range of short seminar sessions, reports from interstate delegates, the importance of community involvement, and presentation of Heritage Grants by John Aquilina MP and Achievement Awards by Hazel Hawke. The conference concluded with Bruce Baskerville leading a walk around old O'Connell Town (now Newtown and Camperdown) followed by Chrys Meader's illuminating and evocative stroll around Camperdown Cemetery at the end of which we partook of champagne and wedding cake by the grave of Eliza Donnithorne, alias Miss Haversham.

Richard Blair

CANTERBURY SUGAR WORKS

The Minister for Urban Affairs & Planning Mr Craig Knowles has refused a Development Application for 42 houses on the Canterbury Sugar Works site. This is in line with the recommendations of a Commission of Inquiry report.

Mr Knowles said that *the heritage significance of the building is of immense value and deserves to be protected. The development in its present form would dominate and obscure views of the northern aspects of the building, and it would be negligent to allow such development to proceed.* He has asked Canterbury City Council and the developer to consider alternatives. The Canterbury & District Historical Society was represented at, and made submissions to, the Commission of Enquiry. Meanwhile no restoration work (not even weatherproofing with a temporary roof) has been undertaken since the disastrous fire in February 1996.

Brian Madden

BEYOND THE BOUNDARY STONE

Chrys Meader's *Beyond the Boundary Stone - The History of Camperdown Cemetery* is now available through Marrickville Library for \$10. If you're a researcher or collector, if you've been on one of Chrys' spirited tours, or merely enjoy communing with the shades of this wonderful graveyard, get your copy soon because there was a limited print run.

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HERITAGE WATCH

Marrickville Council has approved a DA to redevelop the **1884 Commercial Row at 140-152 New Canterbury Road Petersham** (pictured below) as the relocated Petersham Post Office, shops, 23 one bedroom dwellings and parking for 25 cars. This was despite a recommendation by the Council planner to refuse the application, and a petition signed by 114 local residents opposing the DA on the grounds of increased traffic, inadequate parking, bulk, heritage issues and overshadowing, which could be the death knell for Shrubs & Tubs whose sun will be seriously reduced.

The Petersham shopping precinct (now a draft heritage retail area) is one of the few in Sydney whose character has not significantly changed. The front of this building was illegally and significantly altered **prior** to Council permission being granted. This development will be twice as high as at present thus rendering it out of keeping with the rest of the New Canterbury Road precinct.



This demonstrates an inconsistency on the part of Marrickville Council which recently refused the DA to build units above and behind the **Petersham Inn** on Parramatta Road largely on the grounds of bulk. (We await a decision on this from the Land & Environment Court.)

Ironically the **former National Bank** on the corner of Livingstone Road and New Canterbury Road is about to be auctioned. Now that might be an ideal relocation for Petersham's beleaguered post office?

Meanwhile work on a nondescript looking block of units is under way on the site of **Brockleigh** at 86 Illawarra Road, Marrickville just over ten years after its illegal demolition.

The DA to erect a porte cochere (see September newsletter) in front of **Locke-Haven** in Petersham was refused by Council.

Members might keep an eye on **128 Wardell Road Dulwich Hill** (see May newsletter) listed in the 1986 Marrickville Heritage Study and probably the only remaining weatherboard cottage from the days of early market gardens. It remained with the Curtis family for over a hundred years, but when sold recently the auctioneer accentuated the property's development potential.

VIRGINIA KAISER ON ST LOUIS

MHS member Virginia Kaiser, who makes fine quality fibre sculptures using only natural materials, is currently in Santa Monica, California on a craft scholarship. After attending a conference in St Louis, Missouri she wrote:

"The architecture in the marvellous city of St Louis (not *Louee*) was the most magnificent I have encountered and I was staying in one of these amazing homes. St Louis was once one of the largest cities in the US and was the jumping off point for those heading west. A lot of manufacturing was done there because of the trade carried by the mighty Mississippi and Missouri Rivers. The Union Street Station, once an important transportation hub, is an architectural marvel now housing a Hyatt Hotel and a huge shopping complex, but very beautifully done and not degrading the original structure or features.

The 1904 World Fair was held there and with the building of the fair, and its fascinating array of remaining buildings, came a housing expansion. Builders from Europe were employed to build some of the most incredible mansions I have ever seen; there are streets and streets of them with wonderful workmanship in beautiful condition, all family homes, and lovingly kept up and the pride of the city."

NATIONAL TRUST HERITAGE QUIZ

The National Trust not only changed venue this year but also played a rotten trick on participants with a swag of questions largely unrelated to Australia, the staple for all previous quizzes. Nobody doubts Glenn A Baker's extraordinary knowledge of pop music, but expecting your average contestant to know the registration number of Elvis Presley's dog collar or that Steely Dan's name was derived from a dildo was beyond the pale (with apologies to Andy Carr and Judith Matheson who gave our team some credibility).

Stephen Davies fired questions about the Jetsons (four) and other sixties TV trivia; a culinary expert sought answers as scintillating as the number of acres of a rare wine vintage planted in 1855, the answer being one of a), b) or c); whilst Jonathan Chancellor, the Glenn A Baker of real estate gossip, asked how many abodes the much-married, peripatetic Susan Sangster had co-owned.

It was only in rounds 5-6 where the quiz became more accessible: Identify buildings from slides of National Trust properties, although you had to know your staircases and door knobs; and Philip Clark's segment on Aussie disasters. The disaster theme seemed to spill over into the tallying of results when, it appears, the front runners, the State Library team lost through a tallying miscount. Despite these grumbles the MHS team (Shirley Hilyard (captain), Richard Blair, Andy Carr, David Cass, Rod Cox, Shirley Doolan, Judith Matheson and Geoff Ostling) still came a creditable fifth, and more importantly we all had a fun time.

Quizzed out (alias Richard Blair)

LETTER FROM MICK TIMMINGS

Maybe this may be of interest to your Society. For what it is worth here goes. My name is Francis Michael Timmings. I was born 28/5/27 at Tamar Street, Marrickville and I resided at 12 Harnett Avenue Marrickville for the first 30 years of my life. My father's name was Charles Harry Timmings born 1910 in Marrickville. My grandfather Harry Timmings owned a factory* in Marrickville Avenue. His niece was Jean Moncur** [formerly] of 3 Moncur Avenue, Marrickville. I have always had a keen interest in Marrickville, my home town. I know it derived its name from a small village in Yorkshire, England named Marrick.

Some other things of interest was a produce store Mrs Yates owned in Livingstone Road between Warren Road and Renwick Street. Also a grocer store down on the corner of Cary Street owned by Mr Litchfield who used to give you a little bag of boiled lollys at the end of the week if the bill was paid. The Marrickville Municipal Council used to have horses and carts to collect the garbage. Big Clydesdale horses were used. There was a dairy in number 18 Harnett Avenue where you could get milk in a billycan.

There was a bakery in Warren Road east side just around the corner from Illawarra Road. Mr Vergona had a fruit shop on the corner of Illawarra Road and Warren Road west side. There used to be a horse trough on the corner of Warren Road and Illawarra Road in front of the church. On the corner of Warren Road east side and Illawarra Road there was a wine bar. McWilliams had it I am nearly sure. I remember the fire at Seymour's store about 1935 or 36. I remember the roof collapsing in the Royal Exchange Hotel (the Tooheys pub).

I remember Coles store opening (*nothing over 2/6* was their watch cry). I remember the Salvation Army band each Friday night playing. The soda inn on the corner of Illawarra Road and Marrickville Road opposite Fays Hotel, a hotel which boasted it had the longest bar in the southern hemisphere. True or not I do not know however it was a big bar. Did you know there used to be a blacksmith's shop on the corner of Arthur Street and Illawarra Road next to the old Marrickville RSL Club around 1935? I can remember the Cooks River flooding because the flood gates weren't opened and the trams were held up at Arncliffe. I can remember the rock quarry and the blasting that used to go on at Undercliffe near Parry Steps. Anyway this is probably old news, so I won't prattle on any longer.

Respectfully yours,
Mick Timmings [of Ulladulla].

* An engineering business with a foundry that made castings.

** Subject of a *Heritage 2* article and now in her nineties, Jean Moncur is a MHS member still living in Marrickville. Her former house in Moncur Street is now called *Jean*.

CAMPERDOWN SHOT TOWER GLEBE!

The spring trivia answer relating to the whereabouts of the so-called Camperdown shot tower yielded bottles of wine, to both Allan Rees, who from Ashley Cooper's drawing, deduced the shot tower's correct former location on the corner of Bellevue and Railway Streets in Glebe near Blackwattle Bay; and to Ian Phillips, who researched the history. It was part of the Sydney Lead Works owned by GE Crane & Sons. Why it was called the *Camperdown* shot tower is still unclear, however Ian will have a shot at this towering mystery in the next newsletter.

1998 NORFOLK ISLAND TRIP

An information evening will be held at 6pm on Monday 17 November at Petersham Town Hall Amenities Room for those who have expressed interest in going to Norfolk Island next May. Your \$100 deposit (cheques payable to "The Travel Centre") is required by 24 November. Ring Gwenda 9569 5183 or Peter 9207 6724 (work) or 9569 2460 (home) for further information.

WHICH ENTRANCE IS THIS?



After discovering that Robert's mystery canal was in Haberfield and the Camperdown shot tower was in Glebe, who knows where this is? It is definitely in the Marrickville LGA but they are not the missing Woodcourt gateposts. (*Minties* to the first non committee member who rings the editor with correct answer.)

Saturday 6 December the South Sydney Heritage Society Newtown-Erskineville Group a walk led by Bruce Baskerville in old O'Connell Town, now part of Newtown and Camperdown. Meet Newtown Library at 10.30 am.

The AGM of South Sydney Heritage Society will be held at 2 pm on Saturday 13 December at Blackfriars School Chipendale. Details Ann Barron 9557 7343.

PRESIDENT/NEWSLETTER Richard 9557 3823
HERITAGE WATCH Mark 9516 2788
TREASURER Harold 9569 5183
INFOLINE Cheri 9557 3144