

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

VICTORIA BARRACKS & GARDEN ISLAND WITH TREVOR WATERS

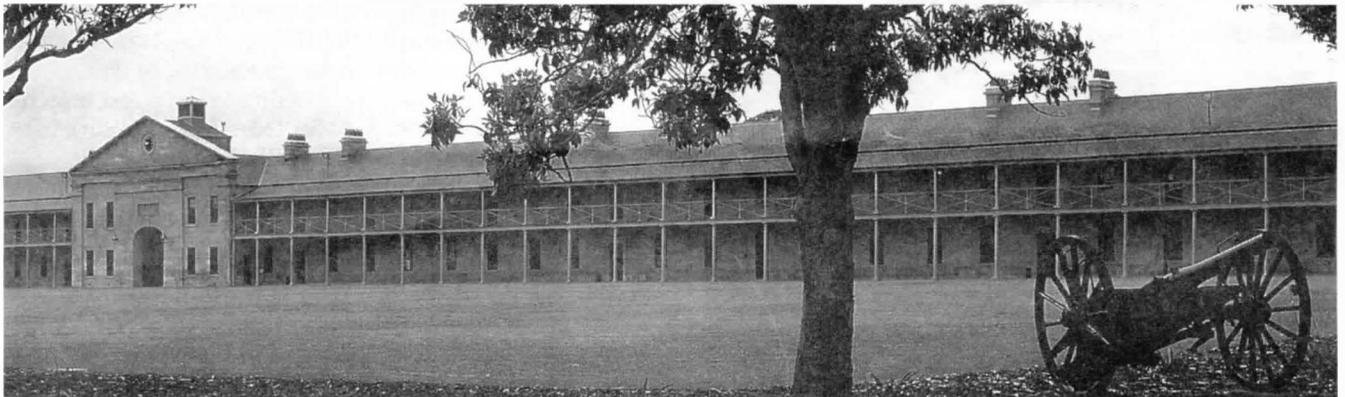
Saturday 28 March 9.15 am

Meet at Petersham Town Hall at 9.15 am for 9.30 am (sharp) coach departure. We must be at Victoria Barracks by 10 (Army orders). Should return to Petersham by 3 pm. Coach \$12, \$10 concession. BYO lunch. Bookings ring Richard 9557 3823. Please advise if you wish to cancel.

The Victoria Barracks complex (see picture), the finest barracks to be built in Australia in the 19th century, is comparable to the best British colonial architecture. It displays evidence of the lifestyle of British soldiers of the 1840s and has played a central role in the history of the Australian military forces.

Victoria Barracks contains the last of the old wells connected to Busby's Bore which is part of a scheme whereby a tunnel was constructed from the Lachlan Swamp, Centennial Park to Hyde Park. The tunnel (1827-37) cut by convicts through solid rock, supplied Sydney with water for 60 years. The ready supply of fresh water influenced the relocation of army barracks from Wynyard to Paddington in 1840.

Garden Island, now connected to Potts Point, was first occupied as a garden for the British Marines, with graffiti cut in stone dating from 1788. The workshops and offices, designed by James Barnet, form part of the 1890s naval development around the vegetable plot. The tour will focus on the industrial buildings from the Victorian period including the 1892 headquarters now undergoing restoration for the Commander of the Fleet Bases in Australia.



(photo: Corporal Robyn White)

1998 MARRICKVILLE MEDAL

The Marrickville Medal is awarded annually by Marrickville Council's Heritage Promotions Committee to buildings and conservation works within the Marrickville LGA that contribute to our cultural heritage.

Properties considered eligible include restoration projects, buildings that have been restored, conserved or renovated, have had minor or substantial alterations, as well as completely new building projects. Single buildings or groups are all eligible. The 1998 Medal will be awarded to works completed within the 1995, 1996 and 1997 calendar years. Anyone may nominate a project of interest and previous unsuccessful entries may be nominated. **Nominations close on Monday 30 March.**

The Medal will be presented during Heritage Week on Monday 27 April. For nomination forms and further information, call Libby Maher, Council's Heritage Architect on 9335 2114.

Trevor Waters Heritage Architect, who has considerable experience in the conservation of buildings, will conduct this tour. He recently supervised the Capitol Theatre restoration, and conservation works to Victoria Barracks, Paddington and is reviewing proposals for Central Railway Station stonework restoration. Trevor has a detailed knowledge of the buildings at Garden Island.

Joining Marrickville Heritage Society is easy and fees are low. We help look after our heritage, conduct a monthly talk or walk, and deliver a monthly newsletter. Ring our treasurer Harold 9569 5183 for more details.

Marrickville Remembers can be purchased through the post for \$12, or for \$10 at one of our meetings. Ring Angela 9564 6370 after hours for information.

HERITAGE WATCH

The Heritage Watch committee is looking to develop "win/win" (for the owner and community alike) conservation strategies for the former Curtis family cottage on a market garden at **128 Wardell Road, Dulwich Hill**. This simple Victorian weatherboard cottage has survived in its established garden setting and typifies the diversity of housing stock identified in the original Marrickville Heritage Study.

The Society has made submissions to Council on a controversial strata unit development on the site of a fine Arts and Crafts residence *Meavy* at **162-164 New Canterbury Road, Petersham**, and on the proposed development of *Loch Lomond*, the former Meek family cottage at **1 Myrtle Street, Marrickville** (see February newsletter). MHS has also learned that planning is underway for residential re-development of a part of the former *Crago Mill* in Newtown. "Watch" this space.

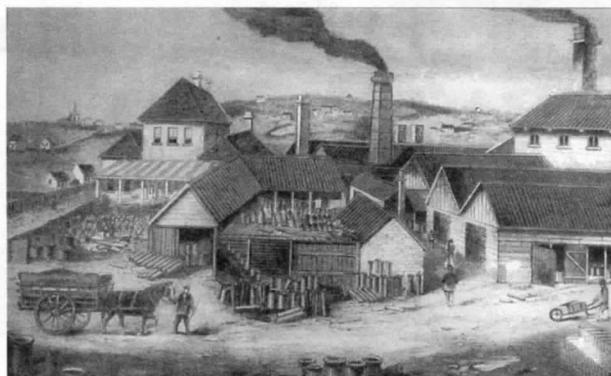
Mark Maloney

Where are they now?

The brick and pottery workers of Camperdown, Dulwich Hill, Marrickville, St Peters, Stanmore.

Heritage Week 1998

will celebrate the fact that Marrickville was built on clay.



(Fowlers Pottery, Camperdown 1864)

We want to hear what it was like to work at the brick pits or pottery works. We would like to see your old photos or newspaper clippings and be able to copy them so that the Council library has records for this period before they are lost.

Can you help?

An exhibition of photographs and memorabilia will be held 27 April – 6 May
Chrissie Cotter Gallery
Pidcock Street, Camperdown
Please ring Libby Maher at Council 9335 2114
or fax 9335 2029



Marrickville Council

OUR LAST MEETING RICHARD CASHMAN ON LOCAL SPORTING CHARACTERS

Among the sporting trivia imparted by our guest speaker on Saturday 28 February was that Margaret Dovey represented Australia in swimming in the 1938 Sydney Empire Games. The cycling events and closing ceremony of those Games were held at Henson Park.

Richard Cashman, who has written numerous articles on local history and sport, as well as many books on cricket, regaled members with stories of the mid 19th century Petersham Racecourse on a slope; the extraordinary feats of William Francis King, better known as *The Flying Pieman*, who once walked from Campbelltown to Sydney in under nine hours carrying a 70 pound dog; and Annette Kellerman (see September 1994 newsletter), born in Silver Street, Marrickville who overcame polio to become a world class sprint and distance swimmer, diver, and entertainer, and was once dubbed "the world's most perfect woman". Enmore Pool was renamed after her.

Turning to cricket, Richard produced a well-worn, old stump found in the Petersham garage of 1912 Test leg spinner Sid Emery. Other cricketers with local connections included fast bowler *Demon Spofforth* (subject of a book by Richard) who played a significant role in the 1882 *Ashes Test*; Bill Brown, central figure in the 1948/49 *Mankad* incident; the colourful Sid Barnes *who played street cricket in Corunna Road before graduating to the Cardigan Street team* (he later figured in a test match 405 run partnership with Sir Donald Bradman); and Johnny Martin who travelled by overnight train every weekend from distant Burrill Creek to play for Petersham-Marrickville. What dedication!

Thanks to Richard for his entertaining talk on our sporting heritage. And who was Margaret Dovey? Not a local, but one of our National Treasures, long-married to a bloke called Gough!

Richard Blair

COMMUNITY HISTORY CERTIFICATE

Want to study local or community history? The Centre for Community History at UNSW (Kensington campus) is running a part-time, one year, tertiary Certificate in Community History where no previous tertiary education is required. First semester is *Researching and Writing Community History* and second semester *Communities in History*. Seminars and field visits are on Fridays 3 to 5 pm.

Do hurry as the course started on 6 March, but there are still vacancies. Enrolment fee (\$500) includes tuition, course guides, reading lists, and field visits. Please ring 9385 2379 or email: Community.History@unsw.edu.au.

Marrickville Council's 1998-1999 **Community Information Directory** is out. It is the third edition, not the "23rd" as on the imprint page!

BARRY O'KEEFE SPEAKS OUT

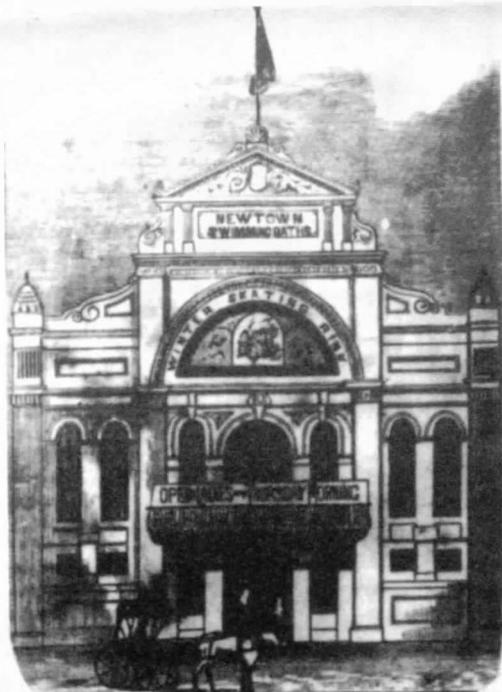
In the National Trust's new-look quarterly magazine *reflections*, the President Barry O'Keefe AM QC makes some relevant observations in his editorial that are worth recording: "While our governments offer enthusiasm and dollars for some conservation projects, there appears to be a lack of willpower to bite the bullet on the big conservation issues that matter, especially where publicly-owned land is concerned."

An example of this is the swimming centre to go in Cook and Phillip Parks where "City Council simply became its own consent authority. The people of Sydney, despite a significant protest, were left with a feeling that they had no control over the destiny of their city and that planning vision is lacking in our civic and political leaders."

The editorial asks about the fate of prized Defence Department harbour foreshores, which "should be returned to the public. ... Will we see again our elected representatives shake their collective heads and suggest that nothing can be done? ... It is up to the Trust and its membership to constantly remind governments and people in positions of power and influence that they are simply custodians. They have a real obligation to look at the longer view, to show real leadership and vision."

It is also up to Societies and their members to protest against perceived inappropriate actions both at a local and a broader level. You can also join the National Trust!

AUTUMN TRIVIA QUESTION



From the Small Pictures Collection, Mitchell Library comes this undated sketch (of dubious quality) of the "old swimming baths and skating rink" in Newtown. The sign above the entrance reads "open to ladies on Thursday morning." Where was/is this interesting building and what is its history? Ring Richard on 9557 3823 or write to MHS.

CANTERBURY SUGARWORKS

The historic Sugarworks building at Canterbury was built between 1840 and 1842 as a sugar refinery. It is the second oldest existing industrial building in the Sydney area, and has been vacant since 1983 when the site was purchased by furniture retailer Nick Scali. It has had a Permanent Conservation Order since 1984. The building was severely damaged by a suspicious fire on 13 February 1996 [reported in previous MHS newsletters].

In recent years there has been a number of proposals to re-use the Sugarworks. In December 1997 Canterbury City Council approved an amended development application for the construction of additional buildings to the west of the Sugarworks and the conversion of the Sugarworks, subject to a number of conditions. This will provide for 39 dwellings on the site, a reduction of three dwellings on the 1995 application. There will not be a building on the northern side between the Sugarworks and the railway line to obscure the view from the park across the line. There will be 20 strata-title units in the Sugarworks building (six one-bedroom, twelve two-bedroom and two three-bedroom apartments).

When the Council deferred the original application to allow the applicant to reconsider the design of the development, the applicant appealed to the Minister for Urban Affairs and Planning, who ordered a Commission of Inquiry. On the receipt of the Commissioner's Report, the Minister indicated that the Council and the applicant should resolve the matter along the lines of the Report. Canterbury Council claims that the approval follows the Commission's findings "to the letter". Mr Scali is quoted in a local newspaper as saying that "it is going to be a beautiful residential complex". He says that it will be completed by January 1999.

Members of the Canterbury and District Historical Society were shocked to learn recently that the Heritage Council in July 1997 agreed to the developer creating at least 24 new window openings and at least six new door openings in the sandstone walls of the Sugarworks building. The walls are the only parts of the heritage building which survived the 1996 fire reasonably undamaged, yet are now to be significantly altered with Heritage Council approval!

Brian Madden

SHRUBS AND TUBS GARDEN CENTRE

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LEICHHARDT GARDEN CENTRE

346-350 Norton St, Leichhardt (Lilyfield Rd end of Norton St) • Tel 9560 0889



Old Fashioned Climbers and Roses, Cottage Garden Plants, Camellias, Azaleas, All Herbs, Terracotta Pots, Lattice. Everything to keep your garden healthy.

CALENDAR OF MHS EVENTS

SATURDAY MARCH 28

Victoria Barracks & Garden Island with conservation architect Trevor Waters.
Details on front page

WEDNESDAY APRIL 15 7.15 for 7.30 pm

Dinner at Perama restaurant Petersham.
See box this page for details

SATURDAY MAY 2

(In lieu of April 25 Anzac Day meeting)
Conservator David McBeath talks on traditional methods of brickmaking and tilemaking.

SATURDAY MAY 23

Stanmore walk with Mark Maloney.

SUNDAY MAY 31

Walk up old convict road at Wiseman's Ferry.

SATURDAY JUNE 27

Annual General Meeting. Guest speaker: Kathy Jones on Airport Link Railway

NEWINGTON CONCERTS

(The Newington College Association of the Arts invites MHS members to these quality concerts at moderate prices. For more information ring 9560 5355.)

Sunday 29 March 3 pm at Newington Chapel
Lenten Concert featuring Faure's Requiem.

Sunday 24 May 3 pm at Centenary Hall
Pomp and Circumstance RAAF Concert Band & Newington Symphonic Wind Ensemble.

Sunday 14 June 3 pm at Centenary Hall
Combined choirs with orchestra present Puccini's stirring choral mass.

PARK DEVELOPMENTS

We commend South Sydney Council for its decision not to turn the site of the former Victoria Park Bowling Club into a cultural centre, but to reinstate it as parkland. ...

... Meanwhile, deliberations over Marrickville's Steel Park continue. A recent Open Day attracted hundreds of people demonstrating the ongoing high level of community interest. A design brief showing the divergence of views within the working party, will go before the Council meeting of 17 March. Be early!

Nearby, following two well-attended community meetings, a DA has been lodged to carry out landscaping and associated works at Richardson's Lookout.

DINNER AT PERAMA

If you think you might be feeling flat after Easter, MHS is going out to midweek dinner. Come along to this popular Greek restaurant in the heart of Petersham, just up from the station. This après Easter pre-Heritage Week occasion is in celebration of conviviality and a chance to mix with like-minded souls over moussaka and retsina (or Chardonnay, at a venue *ouzoing* with Hellenic atmosphere). But do book soon!

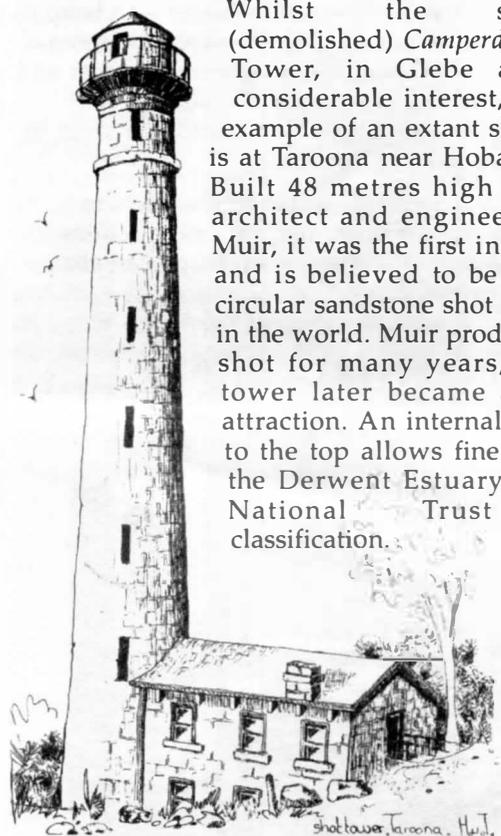
Date Wednesday 15 April 7.15 for 7.30 pm

Venue 88 Audley St Petersham (upstairs)

Banquet menu approx \$23 per head. **BYO.**

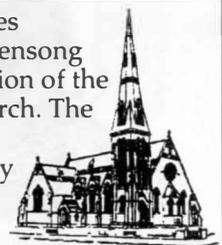
BOOKINGS Anne 9517 2925

HOBART'S SHOT TOWER



Whilst the so-called (demolished) *Camperdown* Shot Tower, in Glebe attracted considerable interest, our best example of an extant shot tower is at Taroona near Hobart (1870). Built 48 metres high by Scots architect and engineer Joseph Muir, it was the first in Australia and is believed to be the only circular sandstone shot tower left in the world. Muir produced lead shot for many years, but the tower later became a tourist attraction. An internal staircase to the top allows fine views of the Derwent Estuary. It has a National Trust "A" classification.

St Clement's Marrickville invites members to a special choral Evensong service to celebrate the restoration of the spire at 7 pm on Sunday 15 March. The service will also dedicate a memorial plaque to the memory of Commander Leslie Brooks (died 1996) a long time local legend and MHS life member.



PRESIDENT/NEWSLETTER Richard 9557 3823

HERITAGE WATCH Mark 9516 2788

INFOLINE Anne 9517 2925