

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

CONSERVATOR DAVID McBEATH ON TRADITIONAL METHODS OF BRICKMAKING & TILEMAKING

Petersham Town Hall

Saturday 2 May 10.30 am

(Note: As our usual meeting falls on Anzac Day, our next meeting will be the following Saturday)

David McBeath is an archaeological and industrial heritage conservation consultant. He is currently Conservation Manager of the old blacksmiths workshop at the Australian Technology Park, Redfern, formerly the Eveleigh railway workshops. David's talk will focus on three of his previous projects, the result of conservation programs. Each needed a different solution, using either lost skills or developing new ones:

1. St Aubins (a house in Scone) — terracotta from Bakewell Bros. Erskineville.
2. Railway Institute Central Station — the making of matching decorative bricks using traditional methods.
3. Vacluse House — a high tech solution to making of tiles. Using slides and raw materials, David's talk will highlight the practical side of conservation and the use of historical research to accomplish the end goal.



Bakewell terracotta urns at St Aubins
(photo: David McBeath)

Join the Marrickville Heritage Society after 1 April and your membership will be paid till the end of June 1999. Membership is only \$8 concession \$14 individual or joint concession and \$20 household or organisation. Send cheque to PO Box 415 Marrickville 2204 with name(s), address and telephone, or ring Harold 9569 5183 for details.

HERITAGE WEEK 1998 Bricks and Pottery of the Marrickville area

The Marrickville Council Heritage Promotion Committee (in conjunction with Marrickville Heritage Society) has organised a range of activities during this year's Heritage Week. Most events are at the **Chrissie Cotter Gallery, Pidcock Street, off Mallett Street, Camperdown** except where otherwise stated. All events are free, but places in the walks and most talks are limited. **So book early with Council's Heritage Architect Libby Maher on 9335 2114 (or leave a message).**

Sunday 26 April 2 pm

Walk to admire the Petersham's brick buildings led by conservation architect Hector Abrahams. Meet and finish at Petersham Town Hall, 107 Crystal Street.

Monday 27 April to Monday 4 May

10am-4pm at the Chrissie Cotter Gallery
Bricks and Potteries of Marrickville exhibition. An exhibition of historic photographs of the important brick buildings of the Marrickville area, and the brick and pottery works, then and now. See important local pottery by Fowler and others. Listen to the oral histories.

Monday 27 April 6pm Opening of exhibition followed at 7 pm by Marrickville Medal Conservation Award. Bookings essential.

Wednesday 29 April 6 for 6.30 pm start.

Talk on Marrickville Pottery with Robert Hutchinson, avid collector of *Australiana*.

Saturday 2 May 10.30 am Petersham Town Hall

Talk on brickmaking by conservator David McBeath (no bookings; details this page).

Monday 4 May 6 for 6.30 pm start

Talk on the conservation of clay and pottery with Catriona Angus of International Conservation Services.

Wednesday 6 May 6 for 6.30 pm start

Conservation architect Paul Davies talks about his work on six important brick churches in Marrickville area.

OUR LAST MEETING

SYDNEY SANDSTONE & GARDEN ISLAND

An introduction to Sydney yellowblock sandstone formed the first half of a very informative and interesting tour on March 28 conducted by Trevor Waters, Conservation Architect, attended by 45 MHS members.

Sydney yellowblock sandstone is of very high quality and won First Prize at the Great Exhibition in London (1880) and the Paris Exhibition (1889). The stone contains siderite (iron carbonate). After mining, oxidation occurs and iron moves to the surface forming an iron hydroxide layer, which produces the distinctive gold colour. The layer is also very hard, so that any sculpting work performed before the hardening occurs is well preserved thereafter.

The Sydney area was blessed with large amounts of this now rare sandstone. At Pymont we visited the chief quarry where Trevor pointed out that "as the bluff at Pymont was excavated, the stately buildings of Sydney were erected, creating Sydney's famous amber city." Quarrying ceased 50 years ago. At Central Station, where he is about to be involved in major restoration work, Trevor talked in depth of the problems of conserving sandstone buildings. At the nearby Capitol Theatre he showed how stonework from the old building had been incorporated into the reconstructed and extended building. Unlike some other conservators, Trevor believes that we should, where possible, keep the authentic original product, warts and all, and thus be considerate of the skills of the workers who went before.

On to the Navy's complex at Garden Island. Here James Barnet designed buildings border the site of a very early vegetable garden used to feed the British marines — hence the name of the former island, now joined to the mainland. We viewed the oldest extant marks of white settlement in Australia: three sets of initials carved in rock dated 1788*. Ships' figureheads, various cannon, including one cast for Philip II of Spain in 1595, and the conning tower of a Japanese midget submarine sunk in the harbour in 1942 were very interesting. A visit to the Naval Chapel, with its beautiful stained glass windows, pulpit shaped like the bow of a ship, and various memorials, we found very moving.

We toured the lovely 1893 Barnet office building (the "1892" engraving is incorrect), now the headquarters for the National Port Services Organisation and undergoing careful restoration. Trevor demonstrated how pull-cords for lights and electric cables left visible rather than inside the walls make it functional but also help preserve the heritage of the building. We greatly admired the restoration of tiles, fireplaces and historic furniture.

Whilst it was disappointing that the intended tour of Victoria Barracks fell through for reasons beyond Trevor's control, we commend him for organising the Sydney sandstone segment at short

notice. The Barracks can be visited without booking, each Thursday and Sunday between 10 am and 3 pm.

Many thanks to Trevor for this enjoyable and thought-provoking tour and to Richard Blair for his organisation.

Elva & David Blair

* Among the initials carved in rock at Garden Island are "FM 1788", believed to belong to Frederick Meredith, a First Fleeter and steward on the ship *Scarborough*. He led a colourful life — received 100 lashes for illegally selling liquor, was aboard the shipwrecked *Sirius* off Norfolk Island, worked as an able seaman, baker, soldier and police constable, received land grants around Sydney, and sired at least nine children to four women. He died at his Bankstown farm aged 72 in 1836 and was buried at St Luke's, Liverpool [this information provided by Fred Ellis].

STATE HERITAGE INVENTORY

Heritage listings is a 20th century concept where significant items are listed in terms of World, National, State, Regional, Local and even Precinct significance. The State Heritage Inventory (SHI) is a new database on the Internet containing information on over 17,000 protected heritage items.

A project is under way to enable community researchers to contribute to the database expanding on available information. Items can still be nominated to the SHI for consideration. MHS will be involved and Society representatives are attending workshops. The Home Page address is "www.heritage.nsw.gov.au". Contact the Heritage Office on (02) 9635 6155 for further information.

TRESILLIAN SOLD

Built in 1900 by timber merchant Frederick Langdon, *Tresillian* is a two-storey Edwardian house on the corner of Shaw Street and Addison Road, Petersham. In 1920 it was purchased by the Royal Society for the Welfare of Mothers and Babies after which the name *Tresillian* became synonymous with mothercraft nursing. Now this facility is moving to Canterbury Hospital in Campsie. Whilst the building's fabric has apparently not been destroyed there have been significant alterations. *Tresillian*, the house, has been sold — potential for a sympathetic restoration!



Yesteryear at Tresillian with its fine timber detailing
(NSW Government Printer)

ST ANDREWS C OF E MARRICKVILLE

Member May Brown (nee Wamsley) wonders whether anyone remembers St Andrew's Church of England which was on the north-east corner of Victoria Road and Chalder Street, Marrickville and was attached to St Clement's. May grew up in 12 Chapel Street and attended St Andrew's where she was confirmed and married by Archdeacon Denman.

The date on the church in the photograph is 1897. The 1898 Sands Directory lists St Clements Mission Hall on this corner. This name remained until 1918 when it was first listed as St Andrews Church of England. It was at 303 Victoria Road until 1925 when it was re-numbered 146 Victoria Road.



St Andrew's Church of England corner Victoria Road and Chalder Street, Marrickville (photo provided by Rev. Chris Clerke of St Clement's)

According to the Centenary History of St Clements (1986, now out of print) Mrs Lucy Craigie held mission services and Mrs Bostock ran Sunday School classes in their Victoria Road homes until Canon Bellingham, rector of St Clement's 1891-1907, had St Andrews built by Joshua Ismay as a branch church of St Clement's. (The former 1910 Carpenter Gothic St Marks Church in Livingstone Road Marrickville, now Spanish Seventh Day Adventist was another branch, along with The Warren mission hall formerly on the corner of Excelsior Parade and Cary Street (1916-68).) By 1908 there were 200 children and 17 teachers in St Andrew's Sunday School.

St Andrew's thrived for about 50 years, but as the area became more industrialised with factories replacing houses, the building was sold in 1963 for £6,000. Memorials in the church were transferred to the SH Denman Memorial Chapel at St Clement's. It was demolished soon after to make way for a factory.

Richard Blair

If you have a spare Saturday afternoon and want to assist in a worthwhile local heritage project, **Mastertouch** is looking for volunteers to help refurbish its newly-acquired fire station soon to be a working museum. Ring Barclay on 9569 5128.

CORRECTIONS

1. Our February newsletter advised that the **Mastertouch** Piano Roll Company received a \$100,000 heritage grant (information gleaned from the list of 1997 Heritage 2001 Program Approved Projects in the December 1997/January 1998 Heritage NSW). This amount was actually part of the \$150,000 Heritage Assistance Grant made in 1996/97. Our apologies to Mastertouch for possibly giving the impression this was an additional grant.

2. Our December 1997 newsletter stated that "75 years ago two important charitable institutions were founded". One of these referred to the **St Vincent De Paul Society's first waste collection depot in Australia** in Newtown. The actual SVDP Society in Australia was founded on 24 July 1881 by Glasgow-born Charles O'Neill at a meeting when the St Patrick's (Church Hill) Conference was formed. Further Conferences were soon established at St Francis (Haymarket), St Mary's Cathedral, and St Benedict's (Broadway). Thanks to Anne Carolan for pointing out this discrepancy.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

The award for the most unoriginal local business name goes to anything calling itself *The Globe*. There's the Globe Studio and the Globe nightclub both in Newtown, the Globe Cinema in Stanmore, and now The Globe Commercial Centre in Gordon Street, Marrickville. This name is the most apt as it was formerly the Globe Worsted Mills dating from 1920. This heritage-listed building has been refurbished into 80 strata-titled business sites. Across the road is The Globe Kindergarten in operation since 1944.

Our award for the most optimistic business name goes to Unwins Bridge Road florist *Sydenham Blooms* (phone 9565 5240). Ironically it is located in the shop on the site of the once thriving nursery *Sydenham Green* owned by MHS member Maurice Milliner who is still seeking compensation for its forced closure in the wake of the Sydenham decimation.

The Society extends its sympathy to David Cass and Angela Phippen on the death of David's mother Rosemary Cass (nee Scott) a MHS member on 8 March after a short illness. Rose grew up in Marrickville and in recent years lived at Mt Victoria during which time she completed a tertiary degree.

SHRUBS AND TUBS GARDEN CENTRE

130-136 New Canterbury Road Petersham • Tel 9560 3884

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

WEDNESDAY APRIL 15 7.15 for 7.30 pm
Dinner at Perama restaurant Petersham
 Ring Anne 9517 2925 for last minute bookings

SATURDAY MAY 2
David McBeath talks on traditional methods of brickmaking and tilemaking
 See front page for details

SATURDAY MAY 23
Stanmore walk with Mark Maloney

SUNDAY MAY 31
Walk up The Great North Road at Wiseman's Ferry

SATURDAY JUNE 27
Annual General Meeting.
Kathy Jones talks on Airport Link Railway

ERSKINEVILLE WALK

On Sunday 3 May at 2.30 pm Shirley Doolan and Gary Luke from the South Sydney Heritage Society Newtown-Erskineville branch will conduct a walk *Around the Burren Estate* starting and ending at Erskineville Station. Highlights: a collection of historic photographs at the Rose of Australia Hotel, an SP bookie's secret entrance, a WW2 air raid shelter and the newly completed Green Ban Park. All welcome by \$2 donation (enquiries Shirley 9516 2123).

AUTUMN TRIVIA ANSWER

Ann Barron from the South Sydney Heritage Society wins the season ticket to Victoria Park Pool for identifying the **Newtown Swimming Baths and Winter Skating Rink as Burland Hall** in King Street. The pool is first mentioned in Sands Directory in 1889 — "Skating rink and swimming baths". In 1890-91 it was described as the "Metropolitan swimming baths", but is listed no further. In 1899 *Marcus Clark & Co drapers, furniture dealers, ironmongers, crockery* moved to 218-226 King Street, which by 1912 was called "The Hub of Newtown (Cash Stores Limited)".



Metal pin tray from "Cash Stores Limited The Hub 218-22 King St Newtown, Sydney" later the (first) Hub Theatre (photo: Peter Bateman; with permission of owner John Wright)

In 1914 the building was leased by WA & AH McIntyre and LH Skidmore and converted into The Hub picture theatre. In 1934 it was bought by Hoyts, and significantly "modernised" producing the current facade. 218 King Street continued as a cinema till 19 September 1959 when *Perri* and *Sign of Zorro* were screened.

In 1962 it was sold to Sydney City Council which converted it into the Burland Community Centre and for some years housed Newtown Library upstairs before relocating to its present location in Brown Street. The Burland Hall is now being converted into shops and offices. Ann has been advised by a builder on the site that during excavations possible swimming baths remnants were unearthed.



Original Hub Theatre at 218 King Street in 1920s. Converted in 1930s to Art Deco Burland Hall, now undergoing another transformation (Marrickville Library Local Studies Collection)

The Hub management in 1934 relocated to Clay's Bridge Theatre, near Newtown Town Hall and renamed that theatre The Hub, which in the 1980s became a theatre of erotica until its closure. Following a recent cosmetic paint job it is currently a retail outlet. It remains to be seen whether it opens (again) as a cinema.

Richard Blair

In the wake of **Jessie Street National Women's Library** having to forego the use of old Marrickville Town Hall in late 1996, it is moving from Rozelle to level 1 of Town Hall House, 456 Kent Street, Sydney sharing premises with Sydney City Library Services. Enquiries 9876 3927.

ANY OLD STAMPS?

Member Margaret Sinclair (famous for her Heritage marmalade) collects stamps for the Christian Blind Mission International, which assists the blind and disabled. Give them to Margaret at our meetings, or post them to her c/- the Society and don't soak off the backing paper.

PRESIDENT/NEWSLETTER Richard 9557 3823
HERITAGE WATCH Mark 9516 2788
TREASURER Harold 9569 5183
INFOLINE Anne 9517 2925
MARRICKVILLE REMEMBERS Angela 9564 6370