

MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY INC.



DULWICH HILL ENMORE LEWISHAM
ST PETERS SYDENHAM TEMPE & PARTS OF

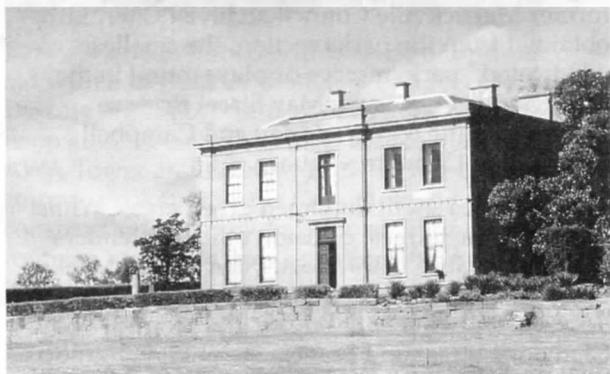
MARRICKVILLE PETERSHAM STANMORE
CAMPERDOWN HURLSTONE PARK NEWTOWN

OUR NEXT MEETING MARVELS OF THE MAITLAND AREA Saturday 22 May 7.30 am sharp

Meet Petersham Town Hall 7.15 for 7.30 am (sharp) departure. Return 6.30-7 pm. BYO lunch. Cost \$35 (includes coach, entry fees, guided tours & morning tea). Please advise in time if you have to cancel. Bookings Shirley 9569 1768.

Exactly six years ago (22/5/93) MHS went to Maitland and the Hunter for *Heritage and Hermitage*. This time we will visit different destinations but a sampling or two of the grape will precede our trip home.

Aberglasslyn, an 1840 John Verge Greek revival Georgian sandstone mansion overlooking a spectacular bend in the Hunter River "is as important to the history of colonial New South Wales as it is important architecturally. . . . Aberglasslyn represents the zenith of house building in early colonial New South Wales and symbolises the nadir of colonial prosperity" (Broadbent *The Australian Colonial House* 1998).



Aberglasslyn (photo: Michelle Carton)

By way of contrast Anambah House (1889) is a Victorian Italianate homestead designed by Maitland's celebrated architect JW Pender. It has a splendid Edwardian billiard room and brick stables and is set in a National Trust classified garden surrounded by 100 year old trees.

The last of our trio will be Dalwood House (1828) near Branxton, an expansive single-storey stone house which is Australia's oldest surviving Greek style building. It is being rescued from ruin and restored by the National Trust. Dalwood is also Australia's oldest commercial vineyard - now Wyndham Estate Winery, which we will visit.

We will also tour the Walka Water Works with its striking chimney and ornate brickwork, and see other aspects of Maitland's heritage including a fine Blacket church.

HERITAGE PLAQUES

After reading an article in the *Courier* about swimming legend Fanny Durack (who died in her Douglas Street Stanmore residence in 1956 and was subject of a *Heritage 4* article), members John and Judy Mackinolty wrote to the Society asking *does the Society do anything about plaques on the houses of former residents of renown?*

The short answer is "no". For a plaque to be placed on a home, permission of the owner is required; if placed on council property, such as footpaths, council approval is needed. Then there are such issues as who foots the bill - plaques are not cheap - and who makes the arrangements.

However plaques and heritage panels are informative and enhance interest in an area. In a joint venture involving Marrickville Council and the state and federal governments, a trail of 22 plaques was laid throughout the municipality during the 1988 Bicentenary.

Another member has written to MHS wanting to have a plaque placed at the site of a former local landmark in Sydenham. This matter is being pursued with council but more about that at a later date. Heritage architect Libby Maher is proposing a policy for heritage plaques to recognise significant people, locations and events. Perhaps members could advise of houses of former prominent residents or any other potential plaque locations.

Richard Blair

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Our AGM will be on Saturday 26 June when a new committee will be elected. As well as our executive committee, we invite members to get involved with heritage watch, publications, oral history and assisting with social activities. If you'd like to become active in the running of the Society please contact Richard on 9557 3823. More details in June newsletter.

JOIN MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY NOW and your fees will take you to the end of June 2000. Membership is \$8 concession \$14 individuals or joint concession & \$20 households or organisations. Ring treasurer Diane on 9588 4930 for more information and an application or send a cheque or money order with name/s, address & phone number to Marrickville Heritage Society PO Box 415 Marrickville 1475.

HERITAGE WEEK 17-25 APRIL

For the true heritage devotee Heritage Week is both a rewarding and a frustrating time as there is an abundance of activities, many of which invariably clash. Marrickville Council's Heritage Promotion Committee organised two walks and a bus tour. Such was the popularity of the **King Street Newtown walk led by Bruce Baskerville** that well over 100 people turned out, the majority not members of local heritage societies. Bruce showed his skill as a tour leader in not only coping effectively with the bustle of Newtown's main thoroughfare, but also displaying his extensive research of King Street buildings.

Local Historian **Chrys Meader** told stories of our history while navigating the **old transport routes of the area** in a double decker bus from the Tempe Bus & Truck Museum. There was the inevitable ghost story involving Chrys' father and the brick pits, but ask Chrys about that! Passengers were delivered via Newtown and Enmore to **David Street Marrickville** where heritage architect **Peter McLaren** showed us this wonderful street full of largely intact Federation style houses. Peter's eye for detail missed nothing. We also saw surviving gems in Marrickville Road, Livingstone Road and Hastings Street.

The Heritage Promotion Committee also organised the Marrickville Medal Award (see separate article) and **Marrickville Now and Then**, a photographic exhibition at the Chrissie Cotter Gallery Camperdown from the Marrickville Library Local Studies Collection. Later in the week the exhibition was relocated to Marrickville Metro where it reached a wider audience. MHS spent half a day there finding considerable resident interest. Such exhibitions need to go to the people to get maximum exposure. Whilst the Chrissie Cotter Gallery is ideally suited to a launch and the Marrickville Medal presentation, the public tend to stay away from galleries regardless of all the publicity.

Elsewhere MHS member **Dr Lesley Muir** led a group of walkers along Cooks River from Punchbowl Road Belfield (where a heritage panel was unveiled) towards Campsie passing a recently identified area of remnant vegetation. **Roy Lumby** revealed the diversity of interesting twentieth century buildings in the city centre, and later the treasures of Erskineville Road, though this walk unfortunately clashed with Marrickville-based activities. The elegant **Grace Hotel** in York Street opened its doors to its early 1930s Art Deco splendour. This enterprising activity included an hour walking tour of the area with Maureen Fry and a delicious "high tea".

The **fifth annual National Trust Heritage Lecture** at the State Theatre was given by conservationist **Peter Garrett**. Sub-editor Shirley Hilyard said this was the best lecture yet though didn't she say that about Robert Hughes last year?

Marrickville Council's heritage architect Libby Maher deserves special thanks for coordinating local Heritage Week activities, aided by other

members of the **Heritage Promotion Committee** – Matthew Devine (convenor), Richard Blair, Donna Braye, Avril Chiswell (who took the wonderful photograph on the promotional postcard), Robert Hutchinson, Rachel Jackson, Cheri Lutz and Scott MacArthur.

Richard Blair

HERITAGE WATCH

* What is left of one of the few remaining Victorian villa estates **Colchester Hall Woodcourt Street Marrickville** following two comprehensive fires in recent years is subject of an application to reinstate fire damaged building and carry out alterations and additions to create a residential flat building. The Society's submission says the application is commendable but seeks clarification about reinstatement and the conservation of significant internal and external features and fabric.

* The latest **King Street and Enmore Road Heritage and Urban Design Development Control Plan** is on display at Newtown Library.

* So what's happening with **Newtown's Trocadero**? All has gone quiet since the fanfare late last year to raise funds for the building's restitution.

OUR SMALLEST PARK

It's official. According to information provided by former Marrickville Council archivist Cheri Lutz obtained from the parks section, the smallest "dedicated" park, reserve or playground in the Marrickville LGA is the **May Street Reserve St Peters** on the corner of May and Campbell Streets. It is 130 metres square.

This excludes small unnamed green areas. Whilst accepting the judges' decision other contenders must come close – **Braddock Playground**, Meeks Road and Maud Street, Marrickville; **Mallam Reserve**, Dulwich Hill; **Bugler Playground**, Gladstone Street and **Francis Street Playground**, both Enmore; **Whitely Reserve**, Stanmore, and **Peter Cotter Rest Area**, Camperdown, both on Salisbury Road. Member **Leslie Logan**, now of Doncaster, Melbourne, advises that the tiny **Francis Street playground** was formerly a garage. **Leslie** lived at 13a Francis Street till 1969.

SHRUBS AND TUBS GARDEN CENTRE

130-136 New Canterbury Road Petersham • Tel 9560 3884



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

OUR LAST MEETING

PLACES OF MEMORY: *sydney home movies* PRESENTED BY VIRGINIA HILYARD

It was a full house at Petersham Town Hall on Saturday 24 April with background Wilbur Kentwell theatre organ music and Jaffas to roll down the aisle (alas the floor was flat and carpeted) when visual artist Virginia Hilyard, presented *Places of Memory* a collaboration between the Museum of Sydney and the National Film & Sound Archive. Virginia was commissioned by MOS to undertake this project. Her selection transposed to video comes from over 50 hours of home and amateur movie footage spanning the period 1929 to 1996.

George Browne was a camera buff and film maker from the age of thirteen. He formed a group known as the Mosman Players and scripted, produced and played in many productions such as "The Elusive Heiress" in 1935 on 9.5mm film where he performed in "drag". George died in June 1996 aged 81 before Virginia completed her production.

War footage of sand bagging brought back memories as did footage of the Harbour Bridge from the unjoined span to the 1932 opening with the horse parade and schoolchildren lining the road. What memories of that day! (Were you there?) Eddie Fevyer, of Manly, between 1946 and 1954 shot magnificent footage of the Manly Pier and women lifesavers march past at a surf carnival as well as the Manly ferry during a violent storm with crested seas – not a day for a trip on our beautiful harbour.

James Sherlock filmed with a sense of humour a lad with a face full of orange at Paddy's Markets. We saw night time footage of Sydney's long gone neon advertisements such as the State Theatre, the AWA Tower and Railway Square. The GPO and its stunning colonnade, the Cenotaph and construction of the Sydney Opera House from footings to what is now our beautiful Australian landmark were all depicted.

There was much much more to this wonderful collection of old home movies of Sydney assembled by Virginia Hilyard. Thank you MOS for permission to screen excerpts and Virginia for taking us on this fascinating and enjoyable journey to places of memory. Also thank you Richard for organising this event. The *Places of Memory* installation can still be seen at Museum of Sydney on the site of First Government House, Bridge Street Sydney until August.

Afterwards members assembled for a champagne toast to celebrate the Society's 15th anniversary.

Verona Rothwell (founding member)

SEEKING MUSICAL MEMORIES

Do you have any local musical memories tucked away? Perhaps you were a performer in the last 50 years or a relative played in a local band or orchestra. Your stories gratefully accepted for a MHS project. Please phone Verona 9523 3750.

1999 MARRICKVILLE MEDAL

The 1999 Marrickville Medal was won by *Glenora* a Victorian cottage in Lymerston Street Tempe. The judges said this "cottage has been rescued from being a white painted house showing signs of considerable neglect and loss of detail. The owner has diligently restored the detail of all the elements, after researching and analysing each layer found within the house and garden. The integrity of this house has been conserved by a commendable effort in restoring all original materials and by reconstructing earlier details." The owner Bob Hayes is a MHS member; designer Nick Powell.



Glenora Lymerston Street Tempe

Two commendations were awarded. One to Julian Oppen for "a brave two storey contemporary design built on a vacant block as an extension onto the side of a freestanding Edwardian terrace in Probert Street Newtown. The designer has used a mixture of modern and raw materials to create a vision of a traditional building type in the street yet maintaining its uniqueness." Lahz Nimmo Architects.

The other went to Juhan and Taimi Lubek's house in Hugh Avenue Dulwich Hill in the Abergeldie Estate: "An excellent house that had retained much of its original detail has been adapted to contemporary living by extending at the rear. This complements the original elements of the house whilst incorporating a new kitchen and family areas, and flows through to the garden." Jennifer Hill, Architectural Projects. Another entrant MHS member Peter Cousens' 1890s house in Lennox Street Newtown was described as "an exciting work in progress and we all look forward to visiting it again when it is complete".

The panel of judges comprised heritage architect Scott MacArthur (convenor), heritage conservator David McBeath and MHS president Richard Blair. No public buildings were submitted.

The medal presentation took place at the Chrissie Cotter Gallery, Camperdown. Mayor Barry Cotter presented the awards and opened the photographic exhibition *Marrickville Now and Then*. Guest speaker Robert Hutchinson gave an interesting talk with slides on the history of the former and present Petersham Town Halls.

CALENDAR OF MHS EVENTS

SATURDAY 22 MAY

Marvels of the Maitland area

Details on front page.

SATURDAY 26 JUNE

Annual General Meeting

Speaker Angela Phippen on our war memorials.

* Thanks to **Betty Healey** who on Grandparents Day on behalf of MHS spoke to pupils at Wilkins Public School on "life back then".

* * * * *

* **Maureen Diehl**, our member in the Azores where she was curator of the war graves, has moved to Florida, but will continue her research of the Australian airman far from home and will remain a MHS member.

* * * * *

* In the wake of *Dive Divas* is an unconfirmed rumour that **Petersham Pool** may be renamed in honour of swimmer **Fanny Durack**, Australia's first woman gold medallist who lived the second half of her life in Stanmore.

* * * * *

* Congratulations to landscape architect **Kristen Martin** for winning the National Association of Women in Architecture annual awards **Design Category for her Peace Park**, corner of King and Alice Streets Newtown.

* * * * *

* **Ashfield & District Historical Society** recently launched its 250 page tome *Summer Hill*. \$20, \$27.50 posted. Ring editor **Chris Pratten** 9798 8593.

* * * * *

* **A Cooks Tour with local historian Chrys Meader** along Marrickville section of Cooks River. 11 am Kendrick Park Tempe. *5 JUNE*

* * * * *

* **South Sydney Heritage Society** will meet at 10.30 am on Saturday 5 June at Newtown Library. Historian **Bruce Baskerville** talks on *Heritage Listings: the What, Why and How*. MHS members welcome.

* * * * *

* *Terre Napoleon – Australia Through French Eyes 1800-1804* **Museum of Sydney** corner Phillip & Bridge Streets. Daily 10-5. Till 30 May.

* * * * *

* *Demolished Houses of Sydney* at the **Hyde Park Barracks Museum** Queen Square Macquarie Street Daily 10-5. Till 26 September.

* * * * *

* *Protest! environmental activism in NSW 1968-1998* exhibition examining 30 years of environmental protest **Justice & Police Museum** corner Albert & Phillip Streets. Weekends 10-5. Until 31 October.

* * * * *

FORT STREET SESQUICENTENARY

On 4 January 1848 Governor Fitz Roy nominated a Board of National Education providing a grant to implement a national system of education in the colony of New South Wales. When the military moved to the newly constructed Victoria Barracks, the Military Hospital on Observatory Hill was refurbished in 1849 for the establishment of the Fort Street Model School.

Fort Street National School, whose first pupils came from the surrounding Rocks, took its place in history not only as the model for all schools in the developing State system and very shortly for many private schools, but also as the training centre for the colony's teachers. Its history is the history of public education in New South Wales.

The education system successfully implemented in Ireland in the 1830s was adopted. So successful was the leadership and direction of **William Wilkins*** who ran the new school for the first four years, that in 1854 he was placed in charge of all public schools.



1901 postcard: school on Observatory Hill, The Rocks

Fort Street functioned as the Model School until well into the twentieth century, turning out scholars who became leaders in government and industry, and in the legal, medical and teaching professions. Girls attended from 1875 though separate schools were later established.

It became a high school in 1911 and in 1916 Fort Street Boys High moved to Taverners Hill, Petersham. Formerly on this site was Sara Dell, once owned and occupied by the ill-fated Dr Robert Wardell. Norwood Street leading into the school was renamed Fort Street.

Fort Street Girls High remained at Observatory Hill until 1975 when the two high schools were amalgamated at Petersham. The National Trust now occupies the site at Observatory Hill. Parts of the 1815 military hospital remain.

Sesquicentenary celebrations will be held at Fort Street High School during the last week of May.

* Wilkins School Marrickville named after him

PRESIDENT/NEWSLETTER Richard 9557 3823

TREASURER Diane 9588 4930