

MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY INC.



DULWICH HILL ENMORE LEWISHAM
ST PETERS SYDENHAM TEMPE & PARTS OF

MARRICKVILLE PETERSHAM STANMORE
CAMPERDOWN HURLSTONE PARK NEWTOWN

OUR NEXT MEETING ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Petersham Town Hall Saturday 26 June 10.30 am

All members are invited to attend the fifteenth annual general meeting of the Marrickville Heritage Society to be chaired by president Richard Blair. Reports will be presented by the president, treasurer, publication editors, and committees for heritage watch, war memorials project and oral history. All positions will be declared vacant.

Nominations are called for president, two vice-presidents, treasurer, secretary, five committee members, membership secretary, and convenor of the heritage watch committee. Nominations may be made in writing to the Society or on the day.

No sooner had our guest speaker **Angela Phippen** finished the Marrickville Remembers project than she plunged into her quest for the area's war memorials, ably assisted by Robert Hutchinson, Scott MacArthur, Harold Welsh, David Cass, Fred Ellis and others. Using slides Angela will present some of the interesting and unexpected finds.

After the meeting join the new committee, weather permitting, in nearby Maundrell Park for lunch. Bring some sandwiches to share. We will provide the champagne and orange juice.

SUBSCRIPTION FEE INCREASE

As the Society's fees have only increased by \$2 since 1990 – last in 1995 – the committee has decided on a further \$2 increase so that from 1 July annual fees will be: concession \$10, individual or joint concession \$16, household or organisation \$22. The treasurer welcomes payment at the AGM or beforehand. Members joining since March do not renew till July 2000. Whether the GST will impact on fees is still to be clarified.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Eileen Hawke, Janice Hilliard, Bill Nicholls, Joanne Russo, all of Dulwich Hill; Marissa & Eugene Sheehan, Lewisham; Linda Aney & Tim Tulk, Betty Jones all of Marrickville; Howard Grace & Deborah Munns, Newtown; Susan Hicks, Susan O'Connor, Kelly Rogers, all of Petersham; Roy Ferntorp, Stanmore; Marie Colbron Conroy, Avalon.

OBITUARY – EVE SHARPE

Eve Sharpe, Patron of Marrickville Heritage Society died at her home in Stanmore on 19 May after a short stay in Royal Prince Alfred Hospital.

At the inaugural meeting of Marrickville Heritage Society in April 1984 Eve was elected Senior Vice-President, a position she held for five years, until her retirement at the AGM in 1989.

For her work with the Society it was fitting that she was invited to become our first Patron and was also appointed first Honorary Life Member. Eve was a mentor to all presidents, and held a watching brief over the Society until her death.



Eve Sharpe at Society's 1997 AGM (photo: Ed Jones)

Her work in the community and later as an alderman is well known – first woman to serve on Marrickville Council and first woman deputy mayor, all documented in *Who's Who of Australian Women* (Methuen 1982) and *Heritage 6* article *All About Eve!* (1990). At her funeral, speakers extolled every facet of this remarkable involvement.

Our feisty patron will be missed at the AGM this month – she always attended and gave words of encouragement to the new executive committee. Who will now advise us on procedural matters?

We extend our condolences to Eve's nieces Olga Jackson and Emily Rose. Marrickville Heritage Society has lost a friend.

Shirley Hilyard

St Peters Anglican Church invites MHS members on a **history walk through St Peters, Sydenham and Tempe** Saturday 19 June 1 pm from church 187 Princes Highway St Peters. Parking in church grounds (entry from south only). Transport back to the church provided at end of walk. Enquiries 9558 7504 after hours.

OUR LAST MEETING MARVELS OF THE MAITLAND AREA

Once again I had the pleasure of being on one of Marrickville Heritage Society's informative and enjoyable day trips with over 50 like-minded people when on 22 May we ventured to Maitland by coach. First stop was the charming St Peters Anglican Church East Maitland (Cyril Blacket 1884) which resembles St Saviours Cathedral, Goulburn. Its stained glass windows are amongst the best I have seen.

Maitland town centre has been blessed by the preservation of its mid to late Victorian facades. Outstanding among the colonial buildings is the former ANZ Bank (1869) acclaimed as a rare example of Byzantine architecture with its beautifully curved upper floor verandah.

Beyond the town is *Aberglasslyn* (1840), a magnificent John Verge designed Greek Revival mansion reflecting colonial prosperity sitting proud with a commanding view of the Hunter River. Originally on a 2000 acre property, Depression prevented completion of the building and only spasmodic work was done by subsequent owners. Paul and Yvonne Maule, who run a bed and breakfast at *Aberglasslyn* and provided a delicious morning tea, have done some superb restoration work with much to admire – the magnificent staircase, the joinery, the masonry and the evocative dungeons.



Former Walka Water Works with stunning brickwork made ideal lunch spot (photo: Robert Hutchinson)

In contrast was the glorious, lovingly restored Victorian Italianate *Anambah House* (1889 John Pender), sitting comfortably amidst beautiful trees. Having access to the original Anambah House plans facilitated the detailed restoration over the past 20 years. Anambah was visited by Dame Nellie Melba in 1909 and in 1994 was site location for the filming of *Country Life**

National Trust-owned *Dalwood* (1828) is unoccupied, has been only partially restored and seems destined to stay that way, but is an insight into this oldest Greek Revival house. Our day concluded with a generous wine-tasting at the Wyndham Estate, not only Australia's oldest operating winery but winner of the 1997 NSW Tourism Award for Excellence.

Thanks to our guides Paul Maule (Aberglasslyn), Jennifer Reid (Walka), Stephen and Heather Berry (Anambah), Kerrie Collins (Dalwood), Paul (Wyndham), our good-natured driver Roy Medhurst, and Shirley Hilyard and Richard Blair for organising such a tremendous day.

David Cunningham

* An overlooked film suggested by Chekhov's *Uncle Vanya* starring Sam Neill, Greta Scacchi, John Hargreaves, Kerry Fox and Googie Withers.

AIRPORT LINK: TBM COMES THROUGH

On Friday 7 May at 10.30 am the Tunnel Boring Machine broke through under Alexandria in the final stages of the massive rail project, the Airport Link. The TBM, which tunnelled under Sydney for almost three years, is as big as a horizontal 20 storey building – 11 metres in diameter, 93 metres long and weighs 1700 tonnes. Once dismantled, the TBM will be returned to Germany. Restoration of the Tempe Reserve construction site will commence later in the year. The ten kilometre underground Airport Line linking the East Hills line into the City Circle network will be open for rail commuters in May 2000.

WINTER TRIVIA QUESTION

Installation of the first giant draughts board in an Australian park occurred in 1930. It was in our local government area. Where? (Ring Richard 9557 3823)

MESSAGES FROM THE WAR

Pam Liell was our February guest speaker and wrote *Before the Phone: 100 Years of Postcard Messages*. Her second postcard book *Messages from the War – Postcards from World War I* was published in April. Though illustrated, the focus is not on pretty views, but rather the messages from the boys and men "over there" doing their bit for King and Country. Their messages to "Mum, My dearest faithful wife, Granma, Dorrie, Zilla or My Dearest Loving Girl", as well as friends and workmates, were written from the front, at camp or from a hospital bed. Many are moving, making these messages part of the history of the Great War.

Local links are Petersham, Marrickville and Summer Hill. Available at \$27 (incl. postage) Pam Liell PO Box 237, Strathfield North NSW 2137.

Robert Hutchinson

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MILLING AROUND

Following our April notice and unexpected publicity the Goodman Fielder Flour Mill, Dulwich Hill, due to close for economic reasons on 30 June, conducted five tours for the Society and the people of Sydney (including the author of a book on Parramatta windmills and a former employee of 47 years) on 15 and 29 May.

Equipped with hairnet, earplugs and a handout on the site history, guide Neil Thompson led us up, down and around the mill showing the processes of flour milling. Though the machinery is modern and streamlined, the mill is hot and noisy, and some jobs heavy and monotonous. One worker has to fill a pallet nine times a shift with heavy sacks of flour, a job described as the toughest in the plant.



Goodman Fielder Flour Mill 1980

Flour mills have operated on this site since the early 1900s, though not continuously. Whilst the major buildings are protected by heritage orders, the site seems destined for adaptive reuse as apartments particularly with potential for adjacent light rail. The Mungo Scott mill in Summer Hill will remain open. Thank you member Chris King for suggesting we visit, Derek Coldstream for facilitating the visits, Neil our tour guide, and Geraldine O'Brien for publicising this event (in her Herald column *Urban Eyes*) which brought new members, and for her ongoing endeavours to save Sydney's heritage.

Richard Blair

HERITAGE WATCH

* The Society has sent Marrickville Council a submission concerning the draft LEP for future development of the former Eversleigh Hospital Petersham site specifying that "the special qualities and features of the site which do much to enhance the precinct should be retained in any redevelopment". Council is still to commission a heritage study of the site.

* **Heritage Watch is the most significant aspect of the Society's work.** It's what distinguishes us from a purely "historical society", as it enables us to play a watchdog role in the community. The committee is looking for new blood, so if you're interested contact Richard on 9557 3823 for further information.

THE HUGHESILIERS

As a lad, born and growing up in Tempe in the 1920s-1930s, the Hughesiliers Hall was located in Holbeach Avenue, just off Princes Highway, and it was almost next door to the Motor Boat Club. If my memory serves me correctly, it was a meeting place for various groups (always with an air of mystery for the young), a venue for dances and wedding receptions. It was still in existence after WWII because it was used during a Mardi Gras I organised for St Peters Ex-Servicemen's Memorial Club on the banks of Cooks River about 1948.

I recently read the following in Bill Wannan's *A Dictionary of Australian Folklore*: "Hughesiliers were young men ordered by the government of Prime Minister WM ('Billy') Hughes in 1916 to enlist for service within Australia. Hughes issued this order in anticipation of a successful Yes vote in the first referendum on conscription. The referendum was not carried, however."

Ken Holt, ex alderman of Marrickville Council who has lived in Tempe since a boy, says only about five members remained when the property was sold and the Hughesiliers Hall was demolished over ten years ago. Businesses, currently a tile company, have since occupied the site. Perhaps Society members can throw extra light on the subject.

Norman McVicker

KAREL JUNGVRT & STUDIO ANNA

Among those who attended a function on 27 May at the Administrative Centre to farewell Karel Jungvirt who is returning to his homeland, the Czech Republic, were several friends of Karel and MHS members. Councillor Rebecca Kaiser praised Karel for his contribution to the culture and craft of Sydney and presented him with a beautiful mounted emu egg. Karel, trained in Prague as a sculptor and ceramicist, migrated from Czechoslovakia in 1951 and for eight months made moulds at Diana Pottery, Marrickville. He founded Studio Anna, based for over 40 years at 27 Shepherd Street Marrickville.



Studio Anna made hand-painted

ornaments, jugs, bowls, vases and souvenirs which were sold through several outlets. This pottery is one of the most collected of the fifties and sixties, and prices are rising steadily. The business has been sold, though several pieces were donated to the Powerhouse Museum and Marrickville Library.

CALENDAR OF MHS EVENTS

SATURDAY 26 JUNE

Annual General Meeting
Speaker Angela Phippen to discuss
MHS war memorials project
Details on front page

SATURDAY 24 JULY

Ultimo/Pyrmont walk with
local historian Margaret Wood

SATURDAY 28 AUGUST

Petersham Town Hall
Sydney's water & Sanitary Attractions
Talks by Jon Breen & Martha Sear

* The Society notes the recent passing of **Ray Hartley, 72**, a long term Tempe resident. Born in Enmore, Ray "was the perennial child star of Australian radio. Due to childhood illness, his voice never broke and he grew no taller than an average 12-year-old." He was Ashley in *Life with Dexter*, appeared in *When a Girl Marries*, and in pantomimes and theatre as a song-and-dance man.

* **Feastability Saturday 19 June 11-4 Newtown Square** sample local wine and international cuisine in a carnival atmosphere. Ring Cheryl 0417 882 042 for details.

* MHS members welcome at 3 July meeting of **Newtown/Erskineville group of the South Sydney Heritage Society** 10.30 am Newtown Library featuring a talk on heritage roses by Richard Walsh, President, Rose Society of NSW.

* **Art Deco Museum of Sydney** corner of Phillip & Bridge Streets. Daily 10-5. Till 5 September.

* MHS has been there twice, but **Rouse Hill estate** (1813) is now open to the public Thursdays to Sundays 10-4.30. Enquiries 9627 6777.

* At Town Hall House 456 Kent Street Sydney the relocated **Jessie Street National Women's Library** together with the City of Sydney Archives and the refurbished City of Sydney Library were officially opened on 30 April. MHS members will recall in November 1994 amidst much fanfare the JSNWL was virtually given the old Marrickville Town Hall in Illawarra Road. These plans fell through due to lack of funds and that forlorn building still awaits adaptive reuse.

* That striking **Federation former Parcels Post Office in Railway Square** (1913, Government Architect George McRae) has had the tacky bits on top removed and is to be refurbished – and hopefully cleaned – as serviced apartments. ...

* ... meanwhile across town the framework for the spires of **St Mary's Cathedral** has been laid.

PLEASE GET IT RIGHT COUNCIL!

Twice in recent months Marrickville Council has caused this Society embarrassment and members confusion and disappointment by giving incorrect information about Council-organised events which has been incorrectly reproduced in our newsletter.

Firstly the starting time for *Dive Divas* was changed from 7 pm to 6 pm which caused inconvenience for some, whilst others missed out altogether, turning up too late for the final show after travelling halfway across Sydney.

Secondly *A Cooks Tour* was publicised in Council's May newsletter *Community Matters* as starting in **Kendrick Park Tempe on Saturday 5 June**. Our MHS May newsletter advertised it. Council's ad for this event in *The Glebe* of 26 May omitted **both date and starting time** and gave the starting point as Steel Park, Marrickville with the walk ending in Kendrick Park. Only days before the scheduled walk was it discovered the walk would actually be on Sunday 6 June, and to further confuse the issue the council ad in *The Glebe* of 2 June gave the date as **Saturday 6 June** – not Sunday 6 June!

MHS endeavours to promote the heritage of both the Marrickville area and Sydney, and therefore publicises many activities of interest and available to our members, not merely MHS events. However it's imperative for organising bodies to get the basic details right.

Richard Blair

THE DEMOLITION OF THE FORMER COLES/BI-LO BUILDING on the corner of Marrickville and Victoria Roads, Marrickville has revealed the fading painted sign *T J Andrews Funeral Directors* on the adjoining building in Marrickville Road. Was this just an ad or were they located there? Many, of course, would recall the splendid 1937 **Marrickville Kings Picture Theatre** on that site demolished in 1971.



Marrickville Kings Theatre at night 1937 (Thorne & Cork For All The Kings Men 1994) showing "Mind Your Own Business" and "Tarzan Escapes".

PRESIDENT/NEWSLETTER Richard 9557 3823

TREASURER Diane 9588 4930