

MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY INC.



DULWICH HILL ENMORE LEWISHAM
ST PETERS SYDENHAM TEMPE & PARTS OF

MARRICKVILLE PETERSHAM STANMORE
CAMPERDOWN HURLSTONE PARK NEWTOWN

OUR NEXT MEETING

ROBERT HUTCHINSON'S PICTORIAL
RAMBLE: NEWTOWN TO MARRICKVILLE
Petersham Town Hall
Saturday 22 August 10.30 am
(Note A talk not a walk!)



Join notable *Australiana* collector and MHS vice president Robert Hutchinson for an illustrated walk of the district of yesteryear. Starting at Newtown Station, we proceed along Enmore Road, Stanmore Road, through Petersham, down Livingstone Road to Marrickville. Along the way we shall visit the choir at All Saints Church, opening night at the Queens Theatre and the army encampment at The Warren.

Wear something warm and comfortable but **no walking is necessary as it's all done with postcards** from the Hutchinson collection. Bring your own old postcards of the area. All members and friends welcome.

PETER ARNETT RETIRES

Peter Arnett, who as Strategic Planning Manager retired on 10 July, spent 30 of his 38 years in local government at Marrickville Council. Peter was instrumental in the formation of our Society in 1984 when the Marrickville Heritage Study was being undertaken. He gave significant support in our early years, often drove the council bus for MHS activities and spoke at our tenth birthday celebrations. We wish Peter and Leda all the best for the future.

How's that winter cold? Forgot your flu vaccine? Run out of Bonnington's Irish Moss? The Society can't provide the tonic but we can remind you to cough up your 1998/99 subscription. Fees still only \$8 (concession), \$14 (ordinary or joint concession) and \$20 (family or organisation). Fee includes Heritage 10. Send cheque to treasurer (Diane McCarthy).

WAR MEMORIALS PROJECT

The Marrickville Heritage Society has embarked on a project to identify, record and photograph **all the war memorials in the Marrickville LGA**. This includes freestanding memorials such as the Winged Victory outside Marrickville Town Hall, honour boards, plaques, memorial windows and books, trophies, buildings and even trees planted as a memorial to a war or the individuals involved. Society members can assist in three ways:

- You can be responsible for recording memorials within a particular suburb. Camperdown, Enmore, Hurlstone Park, Lewisham and Sydenham are currently without a co-ordinator.
- The success of this project depends upon the coverage. To identify all memorials we need to tap into the knowledge of local people. Does your club have a war memorial? Did your children attend a school which recorded the names of fallen students? Did you work in a factory that had such a listing? Sporting clubs, scout halls, churches, public parks etc may yield valuable information. You may not be in a position to record the memorial but **let us know it exists**.

- If you have photographic expertise, you may be of assistance. We require practical advice on how to best photograph a wide range of objects in varying lights and at varying heights.

A war memorial can be used and interpreted in many ways: a) as an historical artefact; b) as an aid for genealogical research; c) as an instrument for understanding a war. I prefer to recognise that every individual named was part of a community and that the memorial says as much about the **community** that created it, as about the individuals recorded. Please ring me on 9564 6370 if you can assist.

Angela Phippen

[Example Here is a description of a memorial window in Holy Trinity Anglican Church Dulwich Hill (from Henderson (ed) 'Monuments and Memorials' 1988): *Lieut. Rev. Everard Digges La Touche. Killed in action at the Dardanelles, 1915. Stylised pointed arch Gothic window depicting a version of the Holman Hunt work The Light of the World inscription at base. 150 x 52 cm. (A French named military clergyman killed in Turkey with a memorial in Dulwich Hill!)]*

YOU MUST REMEMBER THIS!

Marrickville Remembers – The Reunion: see back page

HERITAGE WATCH/ CLASSIFICATIONS ANNUAL REPORT 1997/1998

The Heritage Watch/Classifications Committee (HWCC) draws together a diverse group of local residents with interests and expertise in the built and natural environments. The committee monitors development activity within the Marrickville Council area and seeks to identify and record properties of environmental heritage significance, particularly those which have not been identified in formal heritage studies or by organisations such as The National Trust.

In the twelve months to June 1998, the committee has focused almost exclusively on the built heritage of the Marrickville area, presenting the Society's position with respect to Building and Development Applications referred by Council. Classifications activity has been constrained by demands upon committee business, although several current committee members have expressed enthusiasm for addressing the Classifications issue in the year ahead.

In any case there has been no shortage of development matters to which the committee has sought to respond. Since June 1997, submissions to Council have been made in respect of applications for building or other development of the following properties: Petersham Inn 386 Parramatta Road, *Locke-Haven* 60-68 New Canterbury Road Petersham, 124 Lord Street Newtown, 1 Myrtle Street Marrickville, *Meavy* 164 New Canterbury Road Petersham, 92-96 Percival Road Stanmore, Warren Park and Richardson's Lookout Marrickville, 24 Oxford Street Newtown and 17 Petersham Street Petersham. A number of other applications were examined before a decision was taken that a submission by the Marrickville Heritage Society was not required.

The Society's submissions have contributed to positive outcomes in each of the above cases, except for Petersham Inn and the Percival Road development, which remains to be determined by Council. As this is perhaps the most controversial application referred to the Society, the vigilance of all members in monitoring the progress of this DA will be appreciated.

In several instances, arguments put forward by the Society have influenced Council's assessment of the pertinent development or building applications. In every case, the Society seeks to constructively participate in the planning and development process rather than merely criticise or complain about proposals to alter, add to or demolish properties. Some recognition of this was reflected in the

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Shirley Hilyard, Gwenda Welsh, Mark Maloney & Harold Welsh at 1997 Newtown Festival

YOUR OWN MHS SPOON!

There are two ways to acquire a legendary MHS spoon depicting our Winged Victory motif. Firstly you can give a talk or conduct an outing and join that select group of spoon recipients. If you have stage fright or you feel you don't have anything interesting to talk about, you can pay us a mere \$3.50 and a spoon is yours. Obtainable at meetings and stalls or by post for an extra small charge.

appointment of a Committee representative as a judge of the 1998 Marrickville Medal.

While appreciating the cooperation of some Marrickville Councillors and Council Officers, especially Heritage Architect Libby Maher, the committee remains concerned that Council does not appear to apply a consistent policy of notifying the Society of matters which affect land or buildings with heritage attributes. This is to be pursued with Council in the ensuing months.

In November last year, the HWCC undertook a bus tour of the Lewisham-Dulwich Hill-Marrickville South areas with consultants Lester Tropman and Ken Cable, who are reviewing the 1984 Marrickville Heritage Study. The success of this venture was reported in the Society's December 1997 newsletter. Further field trips beckon for the incoming committee. Early in 1998, three committee members attended a training course in the State Heritage Inventory database at History House.

In April the committee requested Council's direct action in protecting from vandalism the former Curtis family cottage at 128 Wardell Road Dulwich Hill. In spite of interest shown by a local community group and by the owner's planning consultant in conserving this fragile, timber property via its relocation, the Society is disappointed with Council's failure to respond to our initiative. This property remains "one to be watched". Finally, in May, the committee was joined by members of the executive for an interesting presentation by a Marrickville Council planner on their land use planning strategies.

I would like to personally thank all HWC committee members for their enthusiasm and spirit of friendship throughout the year. I also encourage other Society members to join this committee, especially residents of St Peters, Sydenham, Tempe, Lewisham and Camperdown, areas not widely represented on the past committee.

Mark Maloney, Convenor

(Editor's note: Report read June AGM. Curtis Cottage has since been better secured. 1997/98 HWCC members were Mark Maloney (convenor), David Cass (secretary), Richard Blair, Noeleen Curran, Shirley Hilyard, Mark Matheson, Danie Ondinea, Ian Phillips, Anne Walter, Ian Walter, Jane Woolley. The committee meets monthly at Petersham Town Hall. Any MHS member wanting to join this committee can ring Mark Maloney 9516 2788 after hours.)

WHAT'S IN A NAME? – ROTUNDA BALUSTERS REINSTATED

The rotunda (or bandstand) at Petersham Park was opened by the Governor Sir Harry Rawson KCB on 20 September 1902 to commemorate the coronation of King Edward VII. About 10,000 people were said to attend. A mere 100 people turned up on 3 July 1993 when Mayor Barry Cotter reopened the restored rotunda. A plaque says "The restoration of this rotunda was carried out by Marrickville Council in conjunction with the Heritage Assistance Program NSW Department of Planning under the One Nation Programme." The One what?

Meanwhile further repairs recently occurred after balusters were torn off (one retrieved by a MHS member; see June 1997 newsletter) and a tie rod was dislodged. MHS formally reported these matters to Council last October.

Richard Blair

Stop Press Mark Maloney spoke on behalf of MHS opposing the DA for 92-96 Percival Road Stanmore at Marrickville Council meeting of 4/8/98. The DA is still under review.

OUR LAST MEETING CASTLEREAGH & ROUSE HILL HOUSE

The visit by 43 Society members and friends on 25 July to Castlereagh and Rouse Hill House was entertaining and intellectually stimulating. Joined at Penrith by our guide Marilyn Jones, we visited the Olympic Rowing Course, where we saw the first indication of the insensitivity of officialdom to the natural Australian environment in the planting of non-native trees.

Travelling along the old Castlereagh Road, first surveyed by James Meehan in 1803, we became increasingly aware that the dominating features in the landscape were the gravel quarries and the endless procession of trucks. Penrith Council and quarrying companies have devised a Penrith Lakes Scheme. Further lakes will be created on historic floodplains rather than restoring the natural environment. Scant consideration has been given to the heritage value of the area. Aboriginal artefacts have been destroyed and original trees have been cut down.

Many historic buildings have disappeared. We saw others destined to go such as *Minnaville* (1850s), *Puddledock* a very early weatherboard house, and *Landers Inn*, the only remaining inn building on the Castlereagh Road. *Hadley Park* (circa 1812) and *Nepean Park* (1822) will be retained on islands in the lakes scheme. At Upper Castlereagh we viewed the Methodist Chapel (1847) and graveyard, school and schoolmaster's cottage (1878). Princes Farm will become a Japanese Botanical Garden. From a vantage point behind Christ Church (1878), we could see the real impact of gravel mining on the environment: an open cut mine. Nearby we visited the delightful bush Castlereagh Cemetery containing many pioneer graves.*

After lunch at Penrith weir we drove through heavy rain which stopped as we arrived at Rouse Hill House. Built by Richard Rouse from 1813 to 1818, the house has been occupied by the one family for 180 years though is now under the Historic Houses Trust of NSW. It illustrates the rise and fall of family fortunes and changes brought about by successive generations. Grand extensions contrasted with thrifty makeshift repairs. An interesting feature is some mock doors and windows on the main building's exterior to obtain a perfect Georgian balance. The grounds and outbuildings (including the elegant Horbury Hunt stables) are of added interest. Personal belongings and knowledge of the family make this not just a museum but a journey into their lives.

This enlightening trip demonstrated how heritage is being both destroyed and preserved. Thanks to historian Marilyn Jones, whose dedication to heritage preservation is exemplary; Fran, Vladimir and Alex, our Rouse Hill House guides, and to Richard Blair who put the day together.

Bob & Laurel Horton

* Treasurer Diane McCarthy noted these included two First Fleeters: John Rope and his wife Elizabeth Rope (nee Pulley)!

LETTER FROM AN ARCHIVIST – PETERSHAM RIFLE RANGE

I am puzzled by an entry in our school magazine *The Newingtonian* dated August 1920. It reports that the Newington rifle shooting team spent one afternoon and several Saturday mornings practising at the miniature range at Petersham Town Hall.



This was the original 1882 Town Hall in Crystal Street (above: designed by Thomas Rowe, also architect for Newington's Founder Building). It was demolished to make way for the present 1938 Town Hall. So far I cannot find a reference to the rifle range there. I have consulted *The Story of Petersham* and the two Cashman Meader Carolan books but have not been able to find anything about the miniature range. Perhaps some Society members may throw some light. This was when compulsory military training was required of all boys between 12 and 18 years, though Newington had had a Cadet Corps since 1869.

It is as well that the range does not exist today. Imagine the interruption to the monthly meetings on Saturday mornings if there were noisy fusillades at adjoining targets! Kind regards to you and the members. Yours sincerely,

Peter Swain (Archivist, Newington College and former MHS committee member)

NORFOLK ISLAND REUNION

On Saturday 11 July most of those who ventured to Norfolk Island in May gathered at the home of Margaret and Barry Lofts at Lisarow on the Central Coast for a barbecue, a look at photos and Barry's video of the trip, anticipated to be an entrant at next year's Cannes Film Festival. The tour group presented esteemed organiser Peter McLaren with James Broadbent's *Australian Colonial House* and a book voucher. Thanks to Margaret and Barry for hosting this most pleasant reunion.

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CALENDAR OF MHS EVENTS

SATURDAY 22 AUGUST 10.30 am
Robert Hutchinson's pictorial ramble from Newtown to Marrickville ... followed by Marrickville Remembers reunion 1 pm.
Details of both in newsletter

SATURDAY 26 SEPTEMBER
Tour of Picton & Thirlmere Railway Museum
(subject to change if federal election on)



LETTER ON FIRE MARKS

I have had an enquiry from my father John Woolley as to whether any member is aware of buildings in our municipality or elsewhere that may still have a fire mark displayed on them. He has been a long time collector of fire marks and a follower of their history, and is a founding member of the Australian Fire Mark Circle, established in 1984. Most MHS members have possibly never seen a fire mark and if so, have not realised what it was.

Fire marks originated in London in about 1697. The earliest ones were made of lead and later pressed tin, copper or galvanised iron. Each insurance company had its own mark which varied in shape, size and colour and were usually the logo or emblem of that company. On insuring a building and the issuing of the policy, the mark was fixed to the building in a prominent position, clearly visible from the street, often above the front door. In the last century, street numbering had not been introduced and this was a means of identification for the insurers and their fire brigades.

Fire brigades were originally established and owned by an individual fire insurance company or a group of companies. This was the custom in England from the 17th century and in Australia from about 1840, till in NSW the Fire Brigades Act of 1884 established the Fire Brigade of Sydney which took over the company brigades and assumed the responsibility of fighting all fires (whether insured or not). Previously insurance company brigades only attended fires where their company had a financial interest.

After the fire brigades became a public utility, some companies continued issuing fire marks till about the turn of the century as they were then considered a form of advertising. If any members have information on this subject or are interested to know more, please write care of MHS. I am sure my father would gladly help.

Jane Woolley

* Fire mark (or plate) used by Sun office founded 1710

South Sydney Heritage Society talk: Local historian, genealogist and MHS member **Shirley Doolan** *Quirks in the records of Births Deaths and Marriages.* Newtown Library Saturday 5 September 10.30 am. All welcome.

MARRICKVILLE REMEMBERS REUNION

Petersham Town Hall

Crystal Street Petersham

Saturday 22 August 1 pm to 4 pm

The Marrickville Heritage Society is hosting a get-together for all who participated in the *Marrickville Remembers 1939-1945* oral history project. This includes those interviewed, interviewers, photographers and transcribers. Here is a chance to meet some of the faces behind the names and perhaps renew friendships from over 50 years ago. Spouses and partners are welcome to attend.

Just bring memorabilia, memories, anecdotes and laughter. A light luncheon will be served. For catering purposes please RSVP by Friday 14 August to Angela Phippen 9564 6370 (or leave a message).



Lerro Smith (nee Smith) in her 1 Coronation Avenue Petersham garden about 1944 wearing New Guinea grass skirt. House adjoined Eversleigh.

Any member wanting to play some croquet (including non-players) on the afternoon of Sunday 11 October ring Richard on 9557 3823.

NEWINGTON CONCERTS

Sunday 30 August 3 pm Prescott Hall

Renaissance Players directed by Winsome Evans. \$20/\$15.

Sunday 13 September 4.30 pm Newington Chapel

A festival of Baroque music: Bel a Capella with instrumental soloists. \$15/\$8.

PRESIDENT/NEWSLETTER Richard 9557 3823

HERITAGE WATCH Mark 9516 2788

TREASURER Diane 9588 4930

INFOLINE Brenda 9558 9310