

MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY INC.



DULWICH HILL ENMORE LEWISHAM
ST PETERS SYDENHAM TEMPE & PARTS OF

MARRICKVILLE PETERSHAM STANMORE
CAMPERDOWN HURLSTONE PARK NEWTOWN

OUR NEXT MEETING

**HISTORIC PICTON &
THIRLMERE RAILWAY MUSEUM**
Saturday 26 September 8.45 am

Meet Petersham Town Hall 8.45 for 9 am (sharp) departure. BYO lunch. Return about 5 pm. Cost \$20 members, \$22 non-members (coach, entry fee & guided tours). Please advise in time if you have to cancel. Bookings Shirley 9569 1768.

In 1822 *Jarvisfield* – the name of Governor Lachlan Macquarie's Scottish estate on the Isle of Mull and named after his first wife Jane Jervis – was a land grant given to Major Henry Colden Antill, former aide-de-camp to Macquarie. Antill subdivided portion of his Jarvisfield Estate in 1841 and formed a private township, calling it **Picton**. Prior to this, the area was known as Stonequarry. Nestled in the foothills of the Razorback Range, Picton was initially surrounded by dairies, but once the railway reached the town in 1863, the town's role in the Colony of NSW changed. Picton was on the Hume Highway to Melbourne until 1980 when the F5 Freeway opened.



Riverina Express crossing Picton viaduct 1958

Local historian **Jan Ross** will show us Picton which she describes as *an open air museum*. After Jarvisfield we will see the early 1860s stone railway viaduct, the oldest one in NSW, the state's first railway tunnel and its tallest timber truss bridge; 1865 court house and lock-up, tollgate lodge, the 1848 Blakett St Marks Church and the 1819 George IV Inn, continuously licensed since 1839 and the first pub to be licensed as a brewery. Time permitting we can sample their Burragorang Bock (6.4%) or a milder brew before heading home.

The curtain-raiser to the day will be a guided tour of the nearby **Thirlmere Railway Museum** regarded as the most comprehensive such museum in the country followed by a look at the first hospital in Australia to specifically care for consumptive cases. Lunch in Picton's Botanical Gardens.

HERITAGE WATCH

We knew it was only a matter of time before the fragile, timber **Curtis Cottage** 128 Wardell Road, Dulwich Hill, the last local remnant market garden cottage would go up in flames after its sale to a developer early last year. The cause of the fire (around 2 am 23 August) is not known and miraculously the shell of the house was left standing. The house was listed in the 1986 Marrickville Heritage Study and is hoped to be under consideration for the current study. The owner's planning consultant had approached MHS offering to assist with the conservation of the cottage by relocation. The Society wrote to Council in April requesting "direct action in protecting the cottage from vandalism". Council responded after three months having taken only token steps to ensure the building's protection. We will pursue the matter with Council.

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Hope Healthcare is planning to submit an application for rezoning the site of **Eversleigh Hospital** on the corner of Addison Road and Coronation Avenue, Petersham prior to selling it for redevelopment. The owner advised a meeting of residents on 27 August that whilst acquired Audley Street houses would be retained, the main building is not worthy of retention in any development! *Eversleigh* was built in 1876 for George Maiden. From 1909 Eversleigh was a Home of Peace for the Dying and only recently closed. Though not heritage-listed Eversleigh is considered important as of historic and social significance and approval for rezoning the 1876 house should be refused.

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Meanwhile we hear Qantek and State Rail have plans to sell off **Tempe House** and its curtilage. Qantek was going to develop this site and restore the 1830s John Verge house, but apart from demolishing an associated building, nothing else happened. Watch this space!

WANT TO JOIN THE SOCIETY?

It's very simple and anyone can join!
We help save your Heritage.

Membership includes monthly newsletter and the journal *Heritage*.

Talk or outing on fourth Saturday each month.
Membership only \$8 concession \$14 individuals or joint concession & \$20 households or organisations.

Send cheque or money order with name/s, address & phone number to Marrickville Heritage Society PO Box 415 Marrickville 1475 or ring treasurer 9588 4930 for more information.

HISTORY WEEK IS 19-26 SEPTEMBER

NEWSLETTER REPORT 1997-1998

As you heard in the president's report 1997/98 has been an active year for the Marrickville Heritage Society. The newsletter has endeavoured to keep members as informed as possible covering a wide range of matters whilst endeavouring to maintain a balance between the informative, the provocative, the interesting and the unusual. Often the unusual took us into areas other than our own, such as that clock in Brookvale which was once in Martin Place; the mystery canal which turned out to be in Haberfield; or the Camperdown shot tower which was in Glebe. No-one has yet complained about this lack of relevance to our area, besides about a third of our members live outside the Marrickville LGA.

Letters from members are usually of interest especially from people with former local ties such as Mick Timmings of Ulladulla, Shirley Kirkham of West Wyalong, or Norman McVicker, of Mudgee, who many will recall owned the Pocket Playhouse in Sydenham, that gem of a theatre inside a house, which had a *Heritage 6* article devoted to it. In a swiftly progressive world these memories are to be treasured, before they are forever swept away. Ted Green produced a photo of Lydham, an extant but once-grand house in Petersham, formerly a private hospital where his neighbour gave birth to her son in 1932. May Brown evoked an article on the long demolished St Andrews Church in Victoria Road Marrickville, which she attended in her youth. Thus forgotten or overlooked history comes to light, and we perhaps rediscover a building since demolished or ruined by insensitive though perhaps utilitarian change.

Heritage Watch reporting has focussed on issues raised both in Mark Maloney's report and elsewhere – the Petersham Inn, Locke-Haven, Steel Park, Canterbury Sugar Works, Petersham's Commercial Row, Meavy, Curtis Cottage, 1 Myrtle Street, Camperdown Cemetery's remnant vegetation, 92-96 Percival Road, the recently demolished Clarevill in Sydenham, and the Heritage Study Review.

I would like to make special mention of the Index to the first 12 years of MHS newsletters compiled by former president Bob Thompson. This was obviously a labour of love for Bob and will certainly be a useful research tool. We've presented a copy to Marrickville Library and another to Council's archivist. The newsletter lost its long patronage of Wally Pickering from the Leichhardt Garden Centre, but David Klarnett still advertises Shrubs & Tubs with us.

I am delighted that members are making more contributions, but like *Oliver Twist*, editors always want more. I have received considerable assistance from both general and committee members, as well as Cheri Lutz, Libby Maher, and Donna Braye from Marrickville Council. Sub-editor Shirley Hilyard is a willing and beady-eyed proofreader with ever constructive input, Ed Jones and Kelly Cook at Harlow Printing continue to help make the newsletter look great, whilst Gwenda Welsh and Pamela Stewart have ensured it gets speedily to the runners and your letter box. Thank you all!

Richard Blair, Editor (report read at June AGM)

(Note: Outgoing assistant secretary Gwenda Welsh thanked new membership secretary Pamela Stewart for handling postal newsletters, and the 1997/98 runners who were Lu Bell, Richard Blair, John Blattman, Iain Carolin, Shirley Doolan, Fred Ellis, Barbara Gibbons, Shirley Hilyard, Zena Hodges, Valerie McLeish, Fay Nash, Brian Nugent, Allan Outlaw, Ian Phillips, Angela Phippen, Pamela Stewart, Anne Walter and Harold Welsh. Thanks to Gwenda who not only coordinated newsletter delivery for four years but streamlined the process considerably.

SPRING TRIVIA QUESTION

Identify Marrickville LGA's **smallest** park, reserve or playground. Ring Richard 9557 3823.

HENSON PARK, 1938 EMPIRE GAMES & DAY OF MOURNING

The Commonwealth Games to be staged in Kuala Lumpur 11-21 September were formerly called the British Empire Games. In February (5-12) 1938 Sydney was the host city to 15 countries with the Governor, Lord Wakehurst officiating at the Opening Ceremony at the Sydney Cricket Ground. Australia won 65 medals including 24 Gold, five by track star Decima (Dashing Dess) Norman from Albany, WA whose running was described as a *thing of beauty*. Of local interest was the fact that the cycling events were held at Henson Park, Marrickville. On 8 February up to 10,000 people saw Robert Porter (Australia) win the 1000 metre time trial in 1 minute 15.2 seconds, a record, with Tassie Johnson (Australia) second in 1 minute 15.7 seconds.



The Closing Ceremony (see picture) on Saturday 12 February also took place at Henson Park. The Sydney Morning Herald reported that "after the decision of the final cycling event, athletes and officials from all the competing nations in their blazers gathered in ordered lines in front of the poles on which their national flags had flown during the two championship cycling meetings, and raised their standards." There was a *Call to Youth* to assemble again in 1942 at Montreal – a date not kept as the youth of the Empire were engaged elsewhere fighting on the War Fronts.

The 14/2/38 Herald's coverage of this ceremony was overshadowed by a Sunday boating tragedy on Sydney Harbour when the *Rodney*, a two decker launch following the American cruiser *Louisville*, capsized with loss of life. The *Louisville* was one of many foreign ships visiting Sydney for Australia's sesqui-centenary celebrations.

Earlier, on Australia Day one million people turned out for the celebrations and watched the biggest parade ever held in the Southern Hemisphere. Meanwhile the indigenous Australians declared it a *Day of Mourning for the 150th Anniversary of the Whiteman's seizure of our country* appealing to Australia to make new laws for the education and care of aborigines. "In a gay Sydney, with thousands of visitors and powderblue skies, the protestors were easily ignored" (Spearritt *Sydney since the twenties* 1978).

Shirley Hilyard

(Note: Thanks to member John McGlenchy who grew up near Henson Park, advised of the Games Closing Ceremony and provided the above picture from SMH 29/9/82.)

OUR LAST MEETING PICTORIAL RAMBLE FROM NEWTOWN TO MARRICKVILLE

Robert Hutchinson, noted collector of Australianiana, took our meeting of 22 August on an amazing excursion – in fact on two excursions in one. He took us from Newtown to Marrickville via Enmore and Petersham, and he took us back a hundred years in time; and all the while we never left our seats in Petersham Town Hall!

Robert has an extensive collection of old picture postcards, many depicting scenes in our area, and he showed us slides of 37 of them. We started in Newtown Square, and then proceeded along Enmore and Stanmore Roads to Petersham. Highlights of the trip were the United Friendly Societies' Dispensary Hall and the magnificent cast iron balconies at Enmore Junction. Two postcards from about 1906 showed us the magnificent brickwork of All Saints Church, and another couple showed stages in the history of the old Petersham Town Hall.

We joined the opening night crowd at the new Queen's Theatre (formerly Waddington's and later replaced by the Majestic) before heading down Livingstone Road past the Salvation Army Training College, the Marrickville District Hospital and the Town Hall. We watched a crowd of "Men leaving their Service" at St Clements and we saw that the Chinese restaurant opposite, formerly a garage, was before that a grocery. Then we strolled down Illawarra Road to Undercliffe.

The nineteenth century innovation of the picture postcard was popular well into the twentieth century, and Robert let us peek into the daily lives of our predecessors. They wrote to relatives a few blocks away, anxiously asking after their health; they wrote from their holidays in Manly, proposing an evening sea-bathing rendezvous; and they wrote to their friends in the country, complaining and commiserating about the deadly heat. It was an extraordinary experience to see our familiar suburbs through the eyes of long dead residents. After the meeting, as we went our way past All Saints, Newington College and the Enmore Road shops, they seemed doubly familiar, for we remembered them now from two perspectives.

Bill Tarrant

Brechin A place for all seasons. This quaint old 1860s Blackheath cottage (owned and occupied for many years by Amy Needham) has been restored but the front section is basically unchanged. *Brechin* can accommodate up to six people & is an ideal mountain getaway. Details & bookings phone Viki & Jon on 02 9664 2924.



A jacket (to fit M-38-97) was left at Petersham Town Hall on 22 August. Enquiries Richard 9557 3823.

MARRICKVILLE REMEMBERED

On the afternoon of Saturday 22 August 1998 at Petersham Town Hall Kathryn Armytage, Nolene Baker (nee Reynolds), Irene Baker (Trevenar), Ida Barrett (Mudford), Florence (Lu) Bell, Doug Berry, Ada Boes, Joan Bruce, Allen & Rose Bruning (Brailey), Cecil & Ruth Byrnes (MacDougall), Edith Byrnes (Anstee), Heather Crosland (Patterson), Mary Claire Dahlen (O'Keefe), Laine Cunneen (Ahern), Helen Dahlen, Beryl Ada Davies (Ferguson), Margaret Dickens (Ferguson), Mollie Dooley, John Dortkamp, Margaret Dortkamp, Cecilia Doyle, John & Eileen Eppel, Leslie & Joyce Fairbairn (Tasker), Joe Fell, Heather Ferguson, Mavis Ferguson (Knight), Myrtle Ferguson (Gleeson), Jean Foster (Ferguson), Dorothy Gaston, M Halliday, Joyce Hefere, Keith & Norma Lawson (Moncur), Pearl Lowe, Cheri Lutz, Brenda McDuff, Roy McLaughlin, Joy McVicker, Norman McVicker, Thelma Meagher (Ahern), Verlie Miller (Evans), Joyce Millett, Frederica O'Brien (Dredge), Kath O'Brien (Daley), Gwen Parkes (Bruce), Arthur & Dawn Peacock, Mary Phippen (Bruce), Stella Preston (Taylor), Gwen Robertson (Brand), Les Robertson, Olive Robinson (Beer), Verona Rothwell (Needham), Elizabeth Royle (O'Brien), Fred & Beryl Rushbrook, Beryl Russell (Mitchell), John Ryan, Dorothy Skinner (Lewis), John Milton Slattery, Elaine Smith (Pollard), Joy Smith (Sanderson), Lerro Smith (Smith), Colin & Norma Sproule, Beatrice Stephens (Joan Carson), Dorothy Sullivan (Granger), Colin Strange, Alma Swanson (Clarke), Beryl Sweeney (Brand), Yvonne Tanti, Jack Taylor, Jack & Sheila Van Emden (Ferguson), Beryl Wallace (Banham) and Joyce Watson (Hortin) attended the *Marrickville Remembers* reunion.

These people were either interviewed during the *Marrickville Remembers* oral history project or are relatives and friends. Council Archivist Cheri Lutz displayed WW2 period ephemera, the Society provided lunch and sold publications, whilst formalities were kept to a minimum. Project interviewers and/or MHS members assisting on the day were Richard Blair, David Cass, Peter Cousens, Noeleen Curran, Shirley Doolan, Joyce & Fred Ellis, Robert Hutchinson, Ed & Lesley Jones, Diane McCarthy, Carol Phillips, Angela Phippen, Pippa Preston, Anne Walter, John Waterstreet, Harold & Gwenda Welsh. Well done Angela for organising this wonderful day of reunion and reminiscence.

Richard Blair (Note: *Marrickville Remembers* 1939-1945: Extracts from the oral and written histories of Marrickville residents is available from Society for \$10 or \$12 if posted.)

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CALENDAR OF MHS EVENTS

SATURDAY 26 SEPTEMBER

Picton tour & Thirlmere Railway Museum

Details on front page.

SATURDAY 24 OCTOBER

Vincent Crow's Haberfield – a model for heritage conservation

SATURDAY 28 NOVEMBER

Elsie Ritchie on the influence of Josephson family on the development of Marrickville

MARRICKVILLE EYES

Sidetrack Studio Theatre

Hut 9/142 Addison Road Marrickville

11 September – 4 October (Tues-Sat 2-9 pm)

Five Rooms is a moving and eloquent installation which reconstructs five Marrickville living rooms of people who settled here in the early years of the post war migration boom. To enter the rooms is to experience the world through the eyes of each room's owner. **Admission \$5.**

This new multi-art form also comprises *Weddings, Birthdays, Anything* a photographic retrospective depicting life in Marrickville from the 1950s; *The Widows* an outdoor troupe performing randomly around Marrickville; and *Marrickville Ears* radio broadcasts on Marrickville's own Radio Skid Row (88.9 FM) Sydney. Enquiries 9560 1255.

HUNTING HOUSE HISTORIES

History Week is 19-26 September. Marrickville Council Heritage Promotions Committee is holding two free workshops at Petersham Town Hall Archival Centre on researching your house. Limit of ten per group. Dates are:

Tuesday 22 September 6-8 pm

Wednesday 23 September 10-12 am

Bookings Cheri 9335 2185 during working hours.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED TO ARCHIVE

Interested in the history of the Marrickville area? Keen to assist in making important historical records more accessible to researchers? Do you have an eye for detail, a reputation for accuracy and some time to spare?

If you answered *yes* to even some of these questions then Marrickville Council's Archival Reference Centre needs you. I am looking for enthusiastic volunteers to assist with a variety of projects focusing on making Council's valuable archival records more accessible to researchers. If you are interested, or want more information, please call me on 9335 2185 during working hours.

Cheri Lutz (Council Archivist)

MICK TIMMINGS RECALLS

Do any of your readers remember how we could set our time by the mid day factory whistles? Can you remember the church bells of St Clements each Sunday? Remember how we would buy the Smiths chips at the pictures with a little bag of salt inside that you sprinkled on them? Sometimes one was able to open the side door of Hoyts so that a mate could get in free. I often wonder if it was left so that one could open it because they were bad times, and a lot of mateship existed because of it.

I can remember going to the fruit shops and asking for *specks* (bruised fruit) and oft as not the good hearted owner would give us a bag of fruit. We used to sometimes think that he was cheating himself by giving us good fruit (not bruised). Years later I realised what a decent man he was; he was helping us out. I remember selling papers on the trams, luckily I never fell from them. I am visiting my old suburb in November as my wife and I were married in St Brigids Church 6th November 1948. All my best wishes.

Mick Timmings (of Ulladulla, raised in Tamar Street Marrickville.

SPILLERS NEWSAGENCY



Philip Spiller outside his newsagency (at what is now) 63 Palace Street Petersham during WWI. His granddaughter Joy Smith (nee Sanderson) grew up here. Spillers (later called Sandersons) was in Joy's family for over 60 years until 1972. The boy's identity is unknown. Note how cheap newspapers were then.

The Society will be running a stall at this year's **Marrickville Festival** in Marrickville Road on Sunday 20 September from 12 noon. This is when we let the general public know what we do and try to attract new members. If you're a new or established member come to our stall and say hello. You might even be asked to help! We welcome any donations of jam, plants in little pots or bric-a-brac. If you want anything collected ring Angela on 9564 6370.

PRESIDENT/NEWSLETTER Richard 9557 3823

HERITAGE WATCH Mark 9516 2788

TREASURER Diane 9588 4930

WAR MEMORIALS Angela 9564 6370