

MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY INC.

DULWICH HILL ENMORE LEWISHAM
ST PETERS SYDENHAM TEMPE & PARTS OF



MARRICKVILLE PETERSHAM STANMORE
CAMPERDOWN HURLSTONE PARK NEWTOWN

OUR NEXT MEETING

**PLACES OF MEMORY: *sydney home movies*
With Virginia Hilyard
Petersham Town Hall
Saturday 24 April 10.30 am**

Places of Memory is a permanent installation at the Museum of Sydney on the site of first Government House. Using home and amateur movie footage from 1929-1996 it charts a living memory of Sydney's people, places and spaces.



RSPCA Dog Gymkhana Manly 1950s (EW Fevyer 16mm)

Directed by Virginia Hilyard, film maker and visual artist, it is a unique collaboration between the Museum of Sydney (MOS) and the National Film and Sound Archive. Virginia will tell of her role in researching and compiling the final selection from over 50 hours of viewed home movies.

She will screen a selection of the footage that will jog our collective memories – the city and the suburbs, picnics and the beach, ferries and the first royal visit. It is a timely look back at Sydney as we approach the end of the century.

"And if you usually avoid home movies, stop right there. This colourful assembly of footage is a revelation" (SMH 22 February 1997). Thanks to MOS for permission to screen excerpts from *Places of Memory*.

* * * * *

Note Stay for a celebratory drink to mark our fifteenth anniversary. There will be ample time to get to Tempe for bus tour at 2 pm.

HERITAGE WEEK IS 17-25 APRIL and there is plenty to do everywhere. Details of local activities appeared in March newsletter, but can also be found in the nifty postcard of Newtown Square. Contact the editor if you want one.

MHS TURNS 15

Following the launch of Marrickville Council's first Heritage Study the inaugural meeting of the Marrickville Heritage Society, chaired by Peter Arnett, was held at Petersham Town Hall on Saturday 28 April 1984 when about 45 people elected an executive committee.

It comprised Barbara Little (Le Maistre) president, Eve Sharpe senior vice president, Richard Cashman vice president, Chrys Meader secretary, Judy Mackinolty treasurer, Ari Giovaras assistant secretary, Anne Carolan, Ken Henderson, Terry Hicks, Gary Nicholls, Geoff Solomon, Ian Tyrrell committee members. During the first year Anne Cherry replaced Judy Mackinolty as treasurer and Bob Thompson replaced Geoff Solomon. The Constitution was adopted at the 26 May meeting.

Several current members joined the Society at or soon after its inception, month of joining in brackets. Edna Andrews (June), Peter Arnett (May), Terry & Maree Blanchard (June), Anne Carolan (May), Richard Cashman (May), Anne Cherry (May), Mary Harte (June), Peter Mabey (May) Judy & John Mackinolty (May), Chrys Meader (May), Tom Pavlakis (June), Laurel Richardson now Horton (May), Verona Rothwell (May), Eve Sharpe (June), Margaret & John Shaw (June), Bob Thompson (June), Ian Tyrrell (May).

Previously there existed the Marrickville Historical Society which began in 1962 and some of whose members were active in the early days of Marrickville Heritage Society. By the end of our first year there were over 130 members and this has now grown to about 350. We would love to see some long time MHS members at our 24 April meeting when we toast our 15th birthday.

EXHIBITION OPENING & MARRICKVILLE MEDAL

INVITATION TO MEMBERS

Sunday 18 April 4-6 pm come to the Chrissie Cotter Gallery, Pidcock Street Camperdown for the opening of **A Century in Review**, an impressive photographic exhibition of "Marrickville Now and Then". **Guest speaker Robert Hutchinson** will use photographs to trace the history of the previous and current Petersham Town Halls. The **Marrickville Medal Award for Conservation** will then be presented by the Mayor. Drinks and light music. Enquiries Libby Maher 9335 2114.

OUR LAST MEETING EVELEIGH LOCOMOTIVE WORKSHOP

On Saturday 20 March over 40 members visited the Eveleigh Locomotive Workshop at Australian Technology Park, Redfern whose heritage conservator David McBeath gave an informative tour of the old methods used in making and maintaining "puffing billies" and their carriages. *Eveleigh* – once a lovely old home on the western side of the railway line – gave its name to the railway station later renamed Redfern and to the workshops which date from 1880.

In the blacksmith's shop we admired the monster press which shaped red hot billets of steel into the required shapes. The furnace and boilers produced a hot, noisy and dirty atmosphere. Although they had moveable overhead cranes, a large workforce used a variety of hand tools, metalworking lathes, planers, drilling and milling machines. (Men had to have muscles in those days.)

These machines were once state of the art – some heavy machinery was moved into position on blocks of ice – and machine operators had to be highly skilled. "Foreign orders" were commonly processed – there was a big production of baby carriages! Unions were powerful but working conditions were strict. Toilet stops were limited to three a day; you got a "ticket of leave" and were timed.

Building No. 2 revealed a stunning renovation incorporating overhead cranes still on the rails. It is currently used by Conservatorium of Music students and is available for conferences, lectures and functions. Back outside David pointed out the wartime bomb shelters under the railway line and the tent housing a worm farm of some three million inhabitants happily munching away in the cause of ecological science (I did not count them and could not hear them).

We inspected steam locomotive 3801 (designed and built in NSW) recently restored by volunteers to look shiny, majestic and powerful. It does the Cockatoo run to Robertson and elsewhere.

David showed a video of the final day of Eveleigh Workshop operations in 1987. However Technology Park is being used for a range of new technologies (eg Australia's first fuel cell). Thank you David for this wonderful tour (illuminating for both lay people and technology buffs) which will be conducted again during Heritage Week.

Denys Tanner

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

HERITAGE WATCH

* The Society has lodged a submission to Marrickville Council opposing an application to demolish the residence at **94 Brighton Street Petersham** (on the corner of Wentworth Street). The proposed three storey boarding house with 27 rooms is out of scale and does not relate to its setting.

* A row of shops on the **corner of Byrnes Street & Illawarra Road Marrickville** opposite the RSL has been razed. We didn't even get to hear of this proposal.

* Marrickville Council will receive submissions concerning a draft LEP for **rezoning the former Eversleigh Hospital Petersham site** till 16 April. Draft plans are on exhibition at the Administrative Centre.

* The heritage-listed **former Globe Worsted Mill in Gordon Street Marrickville** is subject of an application for conversion into 117 residential apartments. Whilst the development will generate more traffic, it's an adaptive reuse of a heritage item and MHS has no heritage issue with the proposal.

* An application to demolish an "unusually picturesque" federation house at **167 Denison Road Dulwich Hill** and erect five townhouses has been refused by Council following resident opposition.

AUTUMN TRIVIA ANSWERS

Is anyone out there? Not so judging from the (lack of) response to the autumn literary trivia questions. We asked what local suburbs were associated with various literary people. Dame Mary Gilmore (nee Cameron) taught 1891-95 at **Stanmore** Public School before going to Paraguay with the utopian movement. JC Bancks was born in **Enmore** in 1889. His creation Ginger Meggs first appeared in the Sydney Sun in 1921 and still appears in the *Herald*. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle lectured at a Spiritualist service in January 1921 in Stanmore Road **Enmore** (it is not clear where this was or whether Sherlock Holmes materialised). Poet and critic Christopher Brennan died in **Lewisham** on 5 October 1932. **Petersham** is in the biographical information relating to the fictitious poet Ern Malley, a famous 1940s hoax perpetrated by poets James McAuley and Harold Stewart.

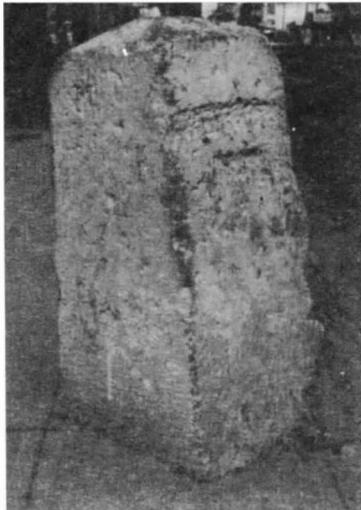
Known as *Old Tom*, Tom Kenny lived at 30 Gannon Street **Tempe** until his death on 9 April 1980. A man with many talents and strong views, he self-published several books often challenging established viewpoints. He argued Dr Wardell's murder was a "government-inspired conspiracy" and that Thomas Wainwright, not Charles Dickens, wrote *Pickwick Papers*. He also wrote *The Historic Villages of Tempe and St Peters*. His works are collector's items. The Tom Kenny Reserve, Bayley Street, Dulwich Hill was named in his honour.

[Sources: *The Oxford Literary Guide to Australia* 1993 & re Tom Kenny *Marrickville People & Places* pp28-29]

Richard Blair, Editor

WHERE IS OUR MILESTONE? HERITAGE MILESTONE STUDY

Among the items listed in the 1986 Marrickville Heritage Study is the milestone that used to stand on the southern side of Parramatta Road Stanmore opposite Nelson Street: "constructed of sandstone the milestone is painted white and located on the footpath oriented diagonal to the road. The milestone is 1.1 m tall, 0.4m wide at the base and 0.35m wide at the top. The stone has an indentation on the SE face and is damaged on the northern corner."



The 1986 study was uncertain about its age, speculating it may have been laid during Governor Macquarie's time: "the stone, along with seven others in Camperdown, Ashfield, Croydon, Homebush, Lidcombe and Granville mark road established during the time of Governor

Macquarie and opened as a turnpike road on 10.04.1810."

According to a Parramatta Road businesswoman, the Stanmore milestone was badly damaged and removed after being hit by a car about three or four years ago. A milestone once on Taverner's Hill Petersham was last recorded there about 1940. The only other known extant local milestone stands in King Street Newtown opposite Missenden Road and a little to the southwest. It is made of concrete and painted a rather irksome mauve colour.

The Heritage Group of the Department of Public Works & Services is undertaking the Sydney Region Heritage Milestones Conservation Study for the RTA (which owns these milestones) with particular reference to the former Stanmore milestone and two in Croydon, one on Parramatta Road, the other on the Hume Highway. They believe the one formerly at Stanmore may have dated from as early as 1816. Anyone with information on this or any other Sydney milestone can contact Ms Challis Smedley at DPWS 9372 8484.

Richard Blair

STANMORE VILLAGE BOOKSELLERS

112 Percival Road
Tel 9518 3320 Fax 9519 1920
Email: books@macconnect.net.au
Web: www.macconnect.net.au/~books

Broad range of pre-loved and out-of-print books including local history and Australian. Scroll our booklists online.
Open 7 days.



THE LITTLE CORNER SHOP

I was born in Marrickville and spent the first 27 years of my life there before moving to Springwood in 1964. My maternal grandparents had grocery shops in Enmore and Petersham from about 1906 to 1924 and bought what was to be my home in Stoke Avenue in the latter year. I still go back to the area, driving or walking around "down memory lane" of my earlier life.

Which brings me to the point of this letter – the demise of the little corner shop that was such a feature not only of our area but suburban Sydney. I suppose this came about with the introduction of supermarkets with discounted goods, combined with the popularity of the motor car where distance from the shops ceased to be a problem.

In our area – Porter and Stoke Avenues [Marrickville] just off Wardell Road on the very borders of Dulwich Hill and Petersham postal areas – there were four little shops within five minutes walk that stocked a whole range of groceries, greengroceries and the little odds and ends needed by a household. We mostly dealt with Rubins, a Polish couple in Wardell Road facing Porter Avenue. But if they were closed we'd go to Strongs on the corner of Pile Street and Wardell Road. And nearby there was another little shop* on the eastern side of Wardell Road near Pile Street, and one just a short distance up Herbert Street.

We kids learned product differentiation early. Streets ice cream was the creamiest and was only sold by the Herbert Street shop; Peters and McNivens – very much second choices – were sold at each of the others. Same with soft drinks: we generally favoured Shelley's [made in Marrickville], followed by Marchants, but Osbornes (made over in Earlwood) was something special and only available, as I recall from the little shop near Strongs.

My grandfather had the smallest shop I have ever seen. It was on the Newington Road side of their house on the corner of that thoroughfare and John Street. He sold only groceries and it was still going until probably ten years ago. It was closed when I last passed by. There were just a few shops in my immediate area. I recall them as very friendly places, a meeting place for residents and an exchange for gossip. And of course most helped many locals with credit in hard times. The emergence of the new convenience stores fulfils the need provided by the little shops of old, but they will never have their warmth or idiosyncrasy, or indeed charm.

Peter Chinn

* This long gone shop was on the site of Curtis Cottage, 128 Wardell Road, a timber house and a remnant orchard, often mentioned in this newsletter and all but destroyed in a mystery fire last August.

CALENDAR OF MHS EVENTS

SATURDAY 24 APRIL

Places of Memory: *sydney home movies*
presented by Virginia Hilyard

Details on front page

SATURDAY 15 MAY

Flour mill visit – details this page

SATURDAY 22 MAY

Maitland coach trip featuring two marvellous mansions *Anambah* and *Aberglasslyn*, a couple of Blasket churches and some winetasting. Bookings Shirley 9569 1768.

SATURDAY 26 JUNE

Annual General Meeting

Angela Phippen to talk on the progress of the war memorials project.

Members are invited to an upriver **Cooks River Walking Tour** led by local historian Dr Lesley Muir, Canterbury & District Historical Society on Saturday 17 April from 12 noon to 1 pm from Cooks River Cycle Path, Punchbowl Road Belfield to Campsie.

* * * * *

Thanks to Robert Hutchinson for organising a tremendous **evening at Camos on the Park Petersham** on St Patrick's Day, with appropriate decorations, Irish style food and a presentation to the owners of a framed early allotment map.

* * * * *

Shirley Hilyard, frustrated over there being no recent National Trust Quiz, organised a spirited MHS table at the successful **Ashfield & District Historical Society's trivia fundraiser** on 20 March. Whilst the Mayor of Ashfield's table won the quiz, Shirley's team made the most noise.

* * * * *

All the best to Marrickville Council's archivist **Cheri Lutz** who has resigned after 3½ years to become an ambulance officer. Cheri, who intends to remain a MHS member, often wrote for the newsletter including this one. We will miss her efficient service provision as she moves from rescuing records to recording rescues!

* * * * *

Rev Chris Clerke of St Clements has added to **Marrickville Library's illuminated presentation collection** by donating one originally given to the first rector of St Clements Anglican Church, Rev A. E. Bellingham in 1907. It is in book form with delicate and intricate designs and drawings, many showing the changes to the church over time. It has several signatures of the parishioners. It will be on display with other items at Marrickville Library during April.

* * * * *

DIVE DIVAS

Marrickville Council are commended for presenting the world premiere of *Dive Divas* at the Annette Kellermann Aquatic Centre, Enmore and at Petersham Pool. Helen Scott as Annette Kellermann and Kris McQuade as Fanny Durack were splendid in this witty, biting production by Mary Haire about these two champion pioneering swimmers and accomplished women, not only in sport and the performing arts, but in their fight for women's rights. Some enterprising theatre group or even SOCOG should take the plunge and splash some investment dollars into this wonderful play.

(Note: The starting time for *Dive Divas* given incorrectly in the last newsletter was the time in the Marrickville Council press release.)

FLOUR MILL VISIT



(Source: *The Story of Petersham 1793-1948*)

With the heritage-listed flour mill Goodman Fielder Ltd in Terry Street Dulwich Hill (formerly Waratah Flour and The Great Western Milling Co. erected in 1914) closing in June, we have arranged a tour of the mill on the morning of Saturday 15 May. Limit of 15, additional tour if required. **Bookings essential** Richard 9557 3823.

COUNCIL ARCHIVES UPDATE

Recently arrived in Marrickville Council's Archival Reference Centre are microfiche copies of rates records for Petersham Municipal Council (1871-1932) and St Peters Municipal Council (1871-1926), as well as Marrickville Municipal Council Valuation books (1908-1925) indexed by street and available on CD-ROM. These records are an excellent resource for tracing the history of houses. They usually show both owner and occupier of a property and can even include lot numbers, street numbers and house names.

Cheri Lutz (former Council Archivist)

To stop unsolicited junk mail being placed in your **post office box**, simply ask at your postal centre. This junk mail – a lucrative earner for Australia Post – clutters up boxes and litters the post box area or street.

PRESIDENT/NEWSLETTER Richard 9557 3823
TREASURER Diane 9588 4930