

MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY INC.



DULWICH HILL ENMORE LEWISHAM
ST PETERS SYDENHAM TEMPE & PARTS OF

MARRICKVILLE PETERSHAM STANMORE
CAMPERDOWN HURLSTONE PARK NEWTOWN

OUR NEXT MEETING ABERGELDIE ESTATE DULWICH HILL WALK WITH ART DECO SOCIETY Saturday 25 September 10 am

(Meet outside 8 Hugh Avenue Dulwich Hill at 9.45 for 10 am start. 428 bus alight Hurlstone Park. Ample parking. Cost \$5. Bookings Peter 9550 3809. Please advise if you have to cancel.)

The Abergeldie Estate in Dulwich Hill epitomises the issues involved in the redevelopment of older areas which is so eloquently portrayed in the Historic Houses Trust *Demolished Houses of Sydney* Exhibition at Hyde Park Barracks (finishing 26 September).

Vibrant cities need to redevelop and improve their infrastructure and building stock, but living cities also need to be able to remember the past through the tangible relics of past generations. The balance between retention and redevelopment is the important ongoing debate between conservationists and developers in achieving a prosperous city which retains a pleasant well-balanced cultural and physical environment.

The demolition of *Abergeldie House*, like the almost contemporary *Crows Nest House* in North Sydney, and the estate's redevelopment in the late 1920s and into the 1930s is a cause for sadness at the loss of interesting mansions and superb gardens, but also a cause for celebration at the creation of exceptionally fine, harmonious and intact interwar residential areas.



"an exceptionally fine house" in Arlington Street
(photo: Richard Blair)

Join the Art Deco Society of NSW's committee members, architects Scott Robertson and Jennifer Hill, in a walking tour of the estate and discover the wealth of Art Deco and Californian Bungalow detailing and how to understand the style of the houses.

HERITAGE WATCHERS

Members may have noticed our August newsletter carried a strong Heritage Watch theme. If you live in or near Marrickville LGA you may wish to become involved in this important aspect of the Society's work. Meetings usually on the fourth Tuesday evening of each month. To find out more about the Heritage Watch / Classifications Committee please contact convenor Scott MacArthur after hours on 9559 5736.

THE ANNUAL MARRICKVILLE FESTIVAL will be held on Sunday 19 September from 11 am along Marrickville Road. The Society is running a stall and members can donate jam, small pot plants and bric-a-brac, or assist for an hour or so on the stall. Either bring things on the day or ring Angela on 9280 2429 to have things collected. Otherwise just come and enjoy yourself at the festival.

HUNTING HOUSE HISTORIES

As part of History Week members and friends of MHS are invited to attend one of two workshops designed to help trace property histories using resources from the Archival Reference Centre and the Local Studies Collection. This is a chance to see and use some very rare and valuable resources. There is **no charge but numbers are limited and bookings are essential.**

When Tuesday 21 September 6.30 to 8.30 pm and Thursday 23 September 10 am to 12 noon

Where Archival Reference Centre, 1st floor, Petersham Town Hall, 96 Crystal Street.

Bookings Vivienne Larking 9335 2185 during working hours. Please advise in time if you have to cancel.

LIKE TO JOIN THE SOCIETY?

Easy. Especially if you have an interest in saving our heritage and/or in local history. No joining fee and annual membership only \$10 concession \$16 individuals or joint concession and \$22 households or organisations. You get a monthly newsletter and the journal *Heritage*. Talk or outing on fourth Saturday each month.

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

OUR LAST MEETING

THE TANK STREAM & BEYOND AND SANITARY ATTRACTIONS

A full house at Petersham Town Hall on Saturday 28 August greeted Jon Breen Heritage Engineer, Sydney Water, and Martha Sear Assistant Curator of Health & Medicine, Powerhouse Museum who respectively presented the topics of water, sewerage and drainage, and the role of the Museum in health, hygiene and sanitation.

Captain Cook discounted Botany Bay as a settlement site partly because it lacked fresh water and chose instead Port Jackson with its good water supply, later named the Tank Stream. The Tank Stream, like many Australian rivers, periodically dried up, and so commenced Sydney's preoccupation with a permanent water supply. Replaced by Busby's Bore, the Botany Swamps, ironically, and eventually the dams of the Upper Nepean, the Tank Stream further served for drainage and sewerage and still remains part of Sydney's stormwater system. One wonders whether we could today invoke past penalties for pollution of the water supply — five pounds fine, and your house knocked down!

The development of Sydney's water, sewerage and drainage left a legacy of pumping stations, ventilation stacks and reservoirs. Tempe had a dam near the Princes Highway, Marrickville had Sydney's only two drainage pumping stations, coal-fired and steam-powered, both of which remain, and Petersham Reservoir is as viable today as it was in 1886, albeit crowned by its present day mushroom water tower (1916).

The Powerhouse Museum started life in 1880 as the Technological, Industrial and Sanitary Museum, a spin-off of England's determination in the late nineteenth century to educate the populace in the importance of sanitation to public health and disease prevention. Museums took a strong educational role, displaying sanitary wares and illustrating the connection between sanitation and health.

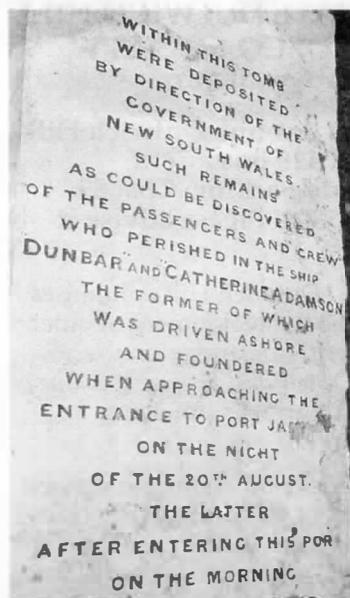
The Sydney version was not without its own short-term sanitation difficulties. It became apparent when visitation numbers declined from 50,000 odd to only 30,000 that the culprit was a disagreeable aroma, and the indignity of "an unsanitary Museum" had to be addressed. We cannot resist mentioning the Indian Museum of Toilets — its exhibits include poetry, and it has its own Website.

Our sincere thanks to Jon Breen and Martha Sear for this lively and informative morning and to Richard Blair for combining these speakers. Not dry subjects, these, and freckled with humorous anecdotes. We await the 2001 Powerhouse exhibition, to be curated by MHS member Megan Hicks and Martha, on public health.

Lorraine Beach

DUNBAR COMMEMORATED

On Sunday 22 August MHS members were among those who gathered under a leaden sky at the gates of St Stephens Newtown for the 142nd anniversary of the sinking of the *Dunbar*. At 2 pm the bell tolled 121 times, once for each soul who perished on that stormy 20 August night in 1857, a tragedy that could be called Australia's *Titanic*. Under the direction of John Diesendorf, standing in for the rector, we walked to where many who drowned are buried. *Oh God our help in ages past* was sung, followed by prayers and readings.



*Dunbar & Catherine Adamson
memorial stone*
(photo: Robert Hutchinson)

Former MHS president Geoff Ostling spoke very movingly of those who died. The passenger list read like a *Who's Who* of colonial society — squatters, businessmen, the clergy and parliamentarians — men, women and children lost forever; and not forgetting the crew, from whose ranks came the sole survivor, James Johnson. He clung for over 30 hours to the cliff face before being rescued. At 2 pm, on 24 August 1857, the city closed its doors, and a procession of over 70 carriages moved to St Stephens churchyard for the internment. As Geoff spoke, the modern day passenger ships were flying in, bringing their passengers safely to port. More prayers, and appropriately *Nearer my God to Thee* was sung, as the sky shed a few tears.

Tamsyn Taylor, who had tolled the bell, conducted a tour of the churchyard, and John Diesendorf spoke about the wonderful interior of St Stephens. A moving occasion for those who attended, including some whose forebears were on the ill-fated *Dunbar*.

Robert Hutchinson

Note 21 people drowned from the clipper *Catherine Adamson* when it sunk two months later on 23 October. Five victims were also buried in the *Dunbar* tomb.

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NEWSLETTER REPORT 1998/99

Apart from our regular features what did you read in the newsletter in this past year? We covered **events** such as 1938 flooding in Illawarra Road, the closing ceremony of the 1938 Empire games at Henson Park, and the Fort Street High School sesquicentenary; **buildings** such as the Petersham Soldiers Memorial Hall, Lydham Hall in Marshall St, Spillers newsagency, Palace St, all in Petersham; Goodman Fielder Flour Mill, Dulwich Hill; Long Cove Viaduct, Lewisham; Hub Theatres, Newtown; Kings Theatre, Rosenau, Bank of Australasia, all in Marrickville; **people** such as Dr Charles Eichler, Louisa Lawson, Hazel Pritchard, Karel Jungvirt, Chelsea Theatre group; and **phenomena** like Petersham Rifle Range, fire marks, missing Parramatta Rd milestones, the Hughesiliers in Tempe, croquet, corner shops, Studio Anna, and our smallest park which according to Marrickville Council is in St Peters, but I still have my doubts about that!

Deserving special mention in providing material are — Stan Bales, Donna Braye, Peter Chinn, Ted Green, Shirley Hilyard, Robert Hutchinson, Chris King, Cheri Lutz, Diane McCarthy, Norman McVicker, Ian Phillips, Eve Sharpe, Joy Smith, Mick Timmings and Harold Welsh, plus all those who wrote a report for "Our Last Meeting". Thank you treasurer Diane McCarthy and her daughter Lisa Angus for compiling regular fresh membership lists and printing out addressed envelopes, eliminating the need to produce individual labels for sticking on envelopes; membership secretary Pamela Stewart for handling the postals and maintaining membership records; Ken Turner and June Cameron for handling newsletter delivery to runners for the second half of last year; and Allan Outlaw and Ian Phillips for assisting me with this more recently.

By virtually eliminating local postals and recruiting new runners has brought savings for the Society. I thank all runners including deputies — Lu Bell, Richard Blair, John Blattman, June Cameron, Iain Carolin, Peter Cousens, Fred & Joyce Ellis, Rosemary Fallon, Barbara Gibbons, Daphne Grange, Paul Heath, Shirley Hilyard, Zena Hodges, Marilyn Leeds, Valerie McLeish, Allan Outlaw, Ian Phillips, Angela Phippen, Andrew Serafin, Pamela Stewart, Kenneth Swinbourne, Anne Walter, Harold Welsh and Coralie Wickers.

Harlow Printing changed its name to Gopher Graphics. Gopher, which also prints our journals and stationery, continues doing a very professional job, exemplified in March when my computer crashed at precisely the wrong time, and Kelly had to key it all in manually. Thanks again Ed Jones and Kelly Cook for your excellence and support.

My final thank you is to Shirley Hilyard, sub editor, proofreader and sage, who invariably tells me if my language or tone, in the newsletter context, is too harsh and should be tempered, or too mild, and should be more forceful. As always, her advice on architectural and heritage watch matters has been invaluable. I have been very pleased with member contributions, and have material in reserve, but more is always welcome. I'm sure many of you have something to say — it makes for greater diversity, and it's less for me to write.

Richard Blair, Editor (presented at June AGM)

HERITAGE WATCH

* In relation to Council's **Draft LEP 1999 and LGA Map** the Society has lodged a submission expressing concern that, in the absence of the completed Heritage Study, no heritage issues are included in the draft, making it difficult to express opinions, or make comments and requests. The Society has also requested that remnant vegetation be included as a heritage item.

* Marrickville Council is also exhibiting the **Draft Development Control Plan for Complying and Exempt Development**. The Society has been alerted by a Council officer that should the plan be adopted as it stands, then some works to heritage items would be exempt from requiring Council's consent. Worryingly, the removal of external wall fabric from a heritage building would in certain cases be classed as an exempt development. The Society is preparing a submission on the Draft DCP, but at the suggestion of our informant, we encourage all members to inspect the proposal and to contact Council with their concerns (Marcus Cowan, Strategic Planner 9335 2261).

* The replacement of the stained glass windows at **Stanmore Baptist Church** remains an issue. Council is not satisfied that it has sufficient details regarding the works, already in progress. It has taken into account our concerns of what work is actually to be done and, in particular, what is proposed for the church's rose windows.

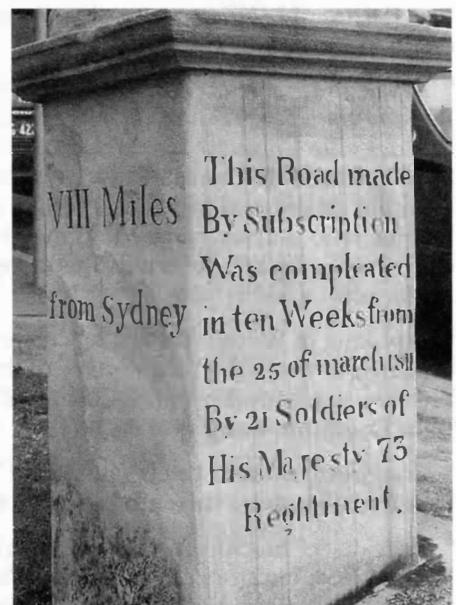
* The Society has formally offered support to **Camperdown Cemetery Trust** in its proposed restoration and preservation works.

* Council is commended for its imaginative and attractive **Addison Road bus shelter near Shaw Street Petersham**; and unlike some prefab shelters in the district it does what a shelter is supposed to do — give shelter. Hopefully this will be the forerunner to others in the LGA.

SPRING TRIVIA QUESTION

**I AM A
MILE-
STONE.
WHERE
AM I?
CLUE:
NOT
LOCAL**

(Richard
9557 3823)



CALENDAR OF MHS EVENTS

SATURDAY 25 SEPTEMBER

Walk around Abergeldie Estate with
Scott Robertson of Art Deco Society
Details on front page

SATURDAY 23 OCTOBER

Tour of Government House, Sydney

- * Annandale Historical Society is holding a **self-guided walk around Annandale** on Sunday 19 September between 9 am and 2 pm. Expert commentary at houses en route. Bookings and prepayment essential. \$5 individual, \$15 family. Ring 9660 4588 in working hours.
- * Members are invited to the annual heritage night at **Ferncourt Public School** Premier Street Marrickville 7 pm Tuesday 21 September. Meet with pupils of earlier days. Contribution \$5.
- * **St Peters Anglican Church Cooks River** invites members to a special service to celebrate the end of the first stage of restoration of their historic organ at 10 am on Sunday 26 September. Distinguished organist Errol Lea-Scarlett to play brackets of organ music.
- * South Sydney Heritage Society presents **Lindsay Foyle talking about Cartoons & Cartoonists of the Inner City** at Newtown Library Brown Street 10.30 am Saturday 2 October. All welcome.
- * MHS members are invited to attend the **RAHS annual conference** 23-24 October at UWS Nepean, Parramatta Campus, Victoria Road, Rydalmere. RAHS members \$80, non-members \$90. Ring Mari 9247 8001 for further information or bookings.

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- * At a recent Council meeting it was decided the Liberty Street Reserve Stanmore would be renamed **Eve Sharpe Reserve**. An appropriate function will be held to mark the occasion. Eve was Patron of MHS for several years until her death in May.
- * AA Milne wrote about *changing the guard at Buckingham Palace*, but what's happening at Marrickville Council? Latest departee is Local Studies Librarian **Donna Braye** who has accepted a similar position at Mosman Library. Best of luck Donna, who will remain a MHS member, and is contributing an article to a forthcoming MHS publication.
- * A plaque in Wynyard Park has recently been unveiled to mark the Bicentenary of the first Presbyterian Minister in the Colony of NSW **Rev. John Dunmore Lang**.
- * Congratulations to the **Jessie Street Womens Library** celebrating its tenth birthday this month.
- * The Society has received a delightful letter from Jen and Rob, curators of the **Walka Water Works**, who guided us around the works on our May

Maitland trip and "enjoyed meeting so many friendly people". Walka is an ideal picnic lunch spot with a museum including video of 1955 Maitland floods, guided tours, walking trails, mini railway (Sundays only) and kiosk. Contact 4932 0522 for further information.

* In renewing her membership **Dorothy Cahill** of Guildford wrote: As many of my dear friends have passed on, I enjoy any news of Marrickville via the Society. I lived in Thornley Street Marrickville from 1924 till 1978 — it was previously called Rickard Street. I will always miss Cooks River at my backyard.

* **Joyce & Leslie Fairbairn** (from a pioneer family) of Earlwood wrote they look forward to receiving their "monthly newsletter without fail, and congratulate all concerned in the preparation of same".

IF YOU CAN HELP . . .

- * Member **Norman McVicker** is seeking information on anyone associated with the final production *Tea and Hamper* of the **Pocket Playhouse, Sydenham** (1947-1973). Those sought include Peter Carter, Brian Wilson, Valerie Roye, John Gillies and Val Smith. Contact Norman on 6373 3981 or PO Box 312 Mudgee 2850.
- * The University of Sydney Faculty of Nursing, Mallett Street Camperdown, is seeking former employees, anecdotes and photographs of the **Bonds Corporation** which occupied the site from the 1920s till 1990. Contact Aileen McCauliffe on 9351 0637.
- * **Win Evans** OAM of Sans Souci (9529 7149) wants to hear from former residents or anyone with information or photographs of the Church of England Deaconess Children's Homes at *Lisgar* 16 Harrison Street Marrickville (1918-29) and *Agincourt* 57 Albert Street Strathfield (1929-35). Win, who lived in these homes from 1922 to 1935, is writing about her life there. Classed as charitable institutions, the children were from one or no-parent families, where usually the fathers had been killed in WWI. The Marrickville home has long gone, but *Agincourt*, once home of Washington H Soul, is still standing.

AMONG OUR MEMBERSHIP are six organisations — Bus & Truck Museum, Tempe; Ferncourt Public School, Marrickville; Lewisham Retirement Hostel, Lewisham; Newington College, Stanmore; Newtown School of the Performing Arts; and St Brigid's Seniors, Marrickville.

HISTORY WEEK 18-25 SEPTEMBER

VICE PRESIDENT Peter 9550 3809
TREASURER Diane 9588 4930
NEWSLETTER Richard 9557 3823