

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 27 July 10 am (morning tea) for 10.30 sharp start

The president and committee invites members to attend the 18th AGM of the Marrickville Heritage Society. Reports will be presented by the president and treasurer followed by reports on heritage watch, oral history, newsletter, other publications, war memorials and the website. All committee positions will be declared vacant. Nominations are called for president, two vice presidents, treasurer, secretary, five committee members, heritage watch convenor and membership secretary. Nominations in writing to the Society or on the day.



After the formalities members will be treated to some old newsreels. Between 1931 and 1975 newsreels gave cinema audiences a weekly look at world and local events and interesting human interest stories. Television gradually killed off the demand for newsreels. Marrickville Council has recently acquired a number of the newsreel events that took place in the present LGA and nearby. Once fleeting newsworthy moments, these newsreels are now a valuable and unique record of our heritage. Traditional post AGM picnic to follow at nearby Maundrell Park so bring some sandwiches to share. The Society will provide champagne and orange juice.

Anyone wishing to join the Marrickville Heritage Society or recruit a friend can send a cheque or money order made out to Marrickville Heritage Society with name(s), address & phone number(s). For a brochure or further information ring vice president Diane 9588 4930. Membership includes monthly newsletter, journal *Heritage*, and monthly talk or outing. Concession \$10, individual or joint concession \$16, household or organisation \$22.

MHS XMAS IN JULY GOES GREEK

No less incongruous than celebrating Xmas mid year is having Xmas fare of taramasalata and moussaka and washing it down with chilled Retsina! Then finding threepenny pieces in your baklava or galakatoboursko. Join fellow members for a fun night at the **Greek Macedonian Club Alexander The Great 160 Livingstone Road, Marrickville on Friday 19 July at 7 for 7.30 pm.** Live music and dancing. Bring a friend. \$35 a head includes banquet and a couple of drinks. Bookings essential Lorraine 9590 3309.

DISPENSARY HALL INDIGNITIES

The still predominantly intact 1902 Dispensary Hall in Newtown is arguably the finest old building on Enmore Road. However the eastern wall on Reiby Street has in recent years suffered the scourge of posters, metal signage illegally bolted on, and mindless spray-painted graffiti. Instant poster removal has, for the present, curbed the bill posters. After formal complaints by residents Marrickville Council revealed the large two metal signs had been affixed by building tenants without council permission. After due process and a considerable lapse of time, these signs have now been removed, though not without damage to the brickwork. The front facade has also suffered extensive damage from careless signage removal.



Friendly Societies' Dispensary (Jubilee Souvenir of the Municipality of Newtown 1912)

Graffiti continues to remain on the building whose owners have made no obvious effort to remove it. Not only is it unsightly visual pollution, it damages the building fabric. Its removal, especially when applied to sandstone, is difficult and requires expert treatment. This gives rise to the question 'Who is responsible for its removal?' The owners? Local councils? As it is, apathy seems to prevail. Surely the most positive step towards eradicating it is to remove it. Its continual presence will only encourage further such vandalism, thereby lowering the tone of the streetscape, and probably reducing property values.

OUR LAST MEETING RICHMOND VILLA & SYDNEY OBSERVATORY

On Saturday 22 June SAG Librarian Angela Phippen welcomed members to Richmond Villa, Kent Street, home of the Society of Australian Genealogists, which was painstakingly relocated in 1975. Originally built facing the Domain in 1849 by colonial architect Mortimer Lewis for his own use, this charming Gothick house is now the headquarters and library for the Australasian collection of books, film, microfiche and extensive primary records index.

We then climbed the Agar Steps to Observatory Hill. As one of the highest points in Sydney, the hill has played a significant role in Sydney's development. It was for many years the site of the first government flour mill; from 1804-06 Fort Phillip, of which only a massive wall remains, surmounted the crest. In 1825 the mill tower was taken over as a signal tower to warn the colony of approaching ships and the nature of their cargo. In 1847 the oldest building on the site, the stone signal house, was built for a busy signal station operating until 1871.

Governor Denison built the Observatory in 1857. Earlier William Dawes had taken observations from near the south pylon of the Harbour Bridge and Governor Brisbane, a keen amateur, had a telescope mounted in Government House Parramatta in 1821. The Astronomer Royal at Greenwich had decreed that the colony did not deserve an observatory so Denison instead built a time tower – with an observatory conveniently attached! Since 1858 the time ball has dropped to mark 1 pm (unlike the one o'clock gun on Fort Denison whose firing time is notoriously unreliable!).

In 1984 the Observatory became a museum. We viewed the permanent exhibition, the time ball drop and peering through the 1873 telescope spotted a far off antenna in the city. In the northern dome with the aid of a high tech computerised telescope and a cloudless sky we observed a solar flare and the planet Venus.
Tricia Blombery

80 ENMORE ROAD & THE BEDFORDS

With a DA approved for redevelopment of this and the adjoining site for nondescript units and shops, genial second hand car dealer Leo of Enmore Road, has been evicted after 18 years and is moving to Dulwich Hill. Leo was once told by a police officer that the building next door, 80 Enmore Road on the corner of Reiby Street, Newtown, had been a police station. Another Enmore Road businessman was similarly advised by a Marrickville Council employee.

However extensive enquiries have failed to verify these anecdotal claims. Among these, the corporate archivist of the NSW Police Service checked police station property cards and location files for Newtown and Enmore without finding any trace of there ever being a police station in Enmore Road. Sands Directories, council rate books and valuation lists indicate that for over 50 years till about 1948

the building was used as a doctor's surgery. It is believed to have been owned by a Greek family since and 1960s rate books have it known as *Vesper*. For many years it has been rental accommodation with no recent improvement to the buildings.



Olive Bank 80 Enmore Road (photo: Richard Blair)

Of greater significance though is the discovery that part of the building on this site has been there since the early 1870s and was owned and occupied by one of the nine 1862 founding councillors of Newtown Council. Alderman David Bedford (after whose family Bedford Street was probably named) "bought a portion of the Pencilville Estate (previously owned by Mary Reibey and Judge Joshua Josephson) fronting Enmore Road in 1871. The family moved there to *Olive Bank* on the east corner of Reiby Street in 1873". His property lay between Reiby House and Stanmore House (by then owned by prominent miller and ex parliamentarian James Pemell). Bedford was a Newtown councillor until 1874 and from 1877 to 1881. He owned a bakery/grocery in Missenden Road, a lot of local property and was a minor artist of some merit.

Bedford had five children, his fourth being Randolph (1868-1941) whose memoir *Naught to Thirty Three* (1944) recalls *Olive Bank* with "its big garden with Brugmansias and a Guelder rose". Randolph became a mining speculator and Queensland Labor parliamentarian (helping to vote the state Upper House out of existence). He was also a journalist, author and prolific writer for the *Bulletin*, bon viveur and associate of the literati. He was a larger than life figure who referred to himself as *Randolph the Reckless*. Norman Lindsay devotes a chapter to him in *Bohemians at the Bulletin* (1965) where he describes Bedford as "magnificent company and the best raconteur I ever listened to ... [and a writer] with some capacity".

Around 1900 the tri-gabled brick edifice was built on the front of *Olive Bank* on Enmore Road, and became doctors consulting rooms. It complemented the Dispensary Hall on the opposite corner of Reiby Street. The loss of this building will both sever another direct link with our early history and further degrade the character of Enmore Road.

Richard Blair (I am indebted both to Vivienne Larking, Marrickville Council Archives for site history & Mark Matheson for identifying link between the Bedfords and this property.)

WINTER TRIVIA ANSWER

The first duel fought in Melbourne took place on the racecourse at the foot of Batman's Hill on 30 May 1839 between George Arden and **Dr Barry Cotter**. Both were founder members of the Melbourne Club. The cause of the dispute is not known, but Cotter was the challenger, so Arden had presumably given offence. Cotter fired first and his bullet went through the beaver hat of his second, William Meek, "posted quite some distance clear of the line of fire"! Arden fired wide intentionally.

With a claimed kinship with Shakespeare's mother, Arden arrived in Melbourne in 1838. He was a colourful character who displayed early talent as an editor and author. He "probably wrote the first original poem on Melbourne to be printed there ... produced ... Victoria's first pamphlet ... [and] advertised the first book published in Melbourne." He died in 1854 aged about 34 "cut down by his own intemperance".

Born in Limerick, Ireland, Barry Cotter (1807-1877) was a medical practitioner who came to Australia in 1830 and worked as a government medical officer in Melbourne in the late 1830s. He married Inez Fitzgerald in 1838, became a businessman, moved between the south eastern states and died in Swan Hill. It is not known if there are any genealogical ties between the duelling doctor and Councillor Barry Cotter, who has been known to wage many a verbal duel during his record term as Mayor of Marrickville!

Richard Blair (Thanks to member John Edwards for providing Q&A and source material, chiefly the ADB and McNicoll No 36 *Collins Street*, a book about the Melbourne Club. No other answer received.)

Veteran actress **Gwen Plumb** who died aged 89 on 4 June lived until she was five in a terrace cottage at 57 Salisbury Road Stanmore before her family moved to Coogee. Gwen was awarded an AM for 'service to the entertainment industry as an actress and to the community as a fund raiser for charities.'

ST PETERS EX-SERVICEMEN'S MEMORIAL HALL & CLUB

The first meeting to form St Peters Ex-Servicemen's Memorial Hall and Club was held in October 1943 at St Peters Town Hall. The Mayor of St Peters, Ald. Keith Smith was the first elected President. In March 1944 Keith Smith resigned and was replaced by [my father] Lieut-Colonel H.G. McVicker, E.D. (ret) who was a foundation member. In January 1944 a Ladies' Auxiliary was formed with Mrs Alice McIvor secretary and Mrs Winifred McVicker a member. They had lived next door to each other in Foreman Street since 1920 when they took up residence in War Service Homes. Both were actively engaged in fund raising during World War II particularly for the local Comforts' Fund.

The first club meetings were probably held at St Peters Town Hall. However, by 1946 'The Colonel' (as he was known) had arranged to rent for a

nominal sum, the old 'games room' at the Tempe Hotel as a temporary meeting place and clubroom.* In May 1946 after being discharged from the army I became the first publicity officer and editor of the club's first official journal *Searchlight*.

One item in the June 1946 issue of *Searchlight* has a nostalgic ring of the rationing era when goods were in short supply. It read: "Stocks of groceries which were not required when the 'Carnival' ended are now available to members' wives at greatly reduced prices. Unobtainable items such as honey, tomato sauce, Rinso, tomato soup, jams etc. are available. Stocks may be purchased at the Club Room any Friday night from 7.30 pm. A visit will be worthwhile to the thrifty housewife."

A club cabaret was held at the Anzac Memorial Club, Marrickville on Friday 26 June 1946. All the 'faithful supporters' attended. Mrs McVicker wore black wool de-chine with red accessories; Mrs O'Donoghue (nee Marie Rowe) wore striped taffeta and a burgundy velvet coat; Dorothy Perkins, blue taffeta; whilst Norma Perkins wore shell pink lace and net. The war was really over. The cost of admission was 4/6 a head with supper provided.

There were two other social highlights in 1946. On Saturday 14 December the club's first Christmas childrens party was held for 150 children in the May Street Methodist Church Hall, near St Peters Railway Station. The resident minister, Rev. Don Clarke (ex RAAF chaplain) was the club's chaplain. The second was a 'Mardi Gras' and dance. Nearly 1000 people crowded into the area in front of Cooks River Motor Boat Club and the Hugheseliers Hall for this promotion of the club on Friday 20 December. It started at 7.30 pm and finished at 1 am on the Saturday morning. Apart from the publicity generated it cleared £75 (a large amount in those days) for the Building Fund.

The St Peters Ex-servicemen's Memorial Hall and Club remained at the Tempe Hotel for a number of years until it moved to its own building in Park Road Sydenham.*

Norman McVicker

* Long time Tempe resident and former Marrickville councillor Ken Holt maintains these meetings were held at the Riverview Hotel, Tempe (now an Irish pub), not the Tempe Hotel. He recalls the building on the north side of Park Road was a temporary igloo type structure and believes the club closed in the early 1960s.

YOUR NEW HIDEY-HOLE

in beautiful downtown Marrickville

John Wright & his willing team welcome Heritage Society members to the very best tea & coffee with generous helpings of fine, light food

KraKajak café

293 Marrickville Rd, Marrickville (opp. St Clements)
8-5 weekdays 8-2 Saturdays
Also Take-away. Phone 9564 6822

CALENDAR OF MHS EVENTS

FRIDAY 19 JULY

Greek Xmas in July

Details on front page

SATURDAY 27 JULY

Annual General Meeting

Details on front page

SATURDAY 24 AUGUST

Brian Madden's *Hernia Bay*

SATURDAY 21 SEPTEMBER

Mark Matheson's *Cooks River Walk*

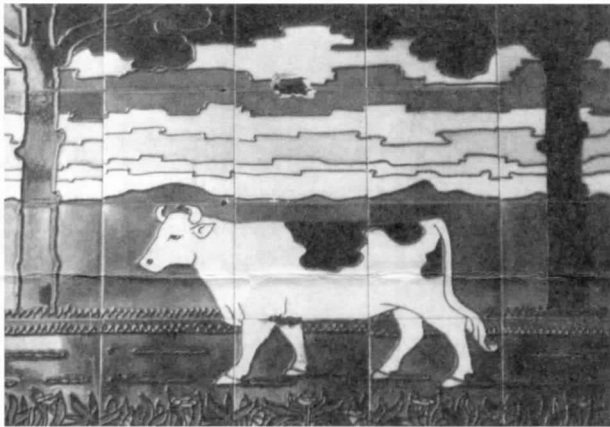
SATURDAY 26 OCTOBER

1930s Movie Matinee at MOS

JOURNAL INFORMATION SOUGHT

1. Decorative Ceramic Tiles

In July 2000 newsletter we appealed for local examples of decorative ceramic tiles. Willem Irik is preparing an article for *Heritage*, and we would like to photograph some local decorative tiles on stair risers and the fronts of houses. Below is a tile tableau of former butcher shop 62 Australia Street, Newtown. Ring Peter Robertson 9564 2383.



2. Carmelites & Montlingham

Ken Swinbourne (9558 0005) is planning an article for a future *Heritage* about the former Carmelite Monastery site at 194 Wardell Road, Dulwich Hill. He would like any information, anecdotes or pictures about this site, particularly the quarry which abuts the Gilbert Barry Reserve and the old house *Montlingham* (1882) which the nuns bought in 1902. It was demolished in the mid to late 1990s to make way for the primary school buildings at St Maroun's.



Carmelites on wash day: Montlingham at back

HERITAGE AGREEMENTS

The most recent update of the NSW Heritage Act has introduced the concept of Heritage Agreements as a tool in the ongoing fight to balance development pressures and heritage values. Heritage Agreements are compacts entered into by the owner of an item with the Minister of Urban Affairs and Planning (the 'heritage' minister) to conform to an appropriate conservation strategy for an item. These agreements can only apply to items on the State Heritage Register (NSW's highest level of heritage protection, as defined and administered by the Heritage Act). The intention of the agreement from the government's point of view is to permanently protect and control the management of special sites.

In return, the site owners will need incentives to manage and conserve their properties. This appears to mean that some sort of financial gain for the owner will be provided for in the protection agreement. This would probably take the form of some redevelopment or commercial enterprise that can only proceed while there is ongoing conservation and protection of the heritage item. The bottom line is, of course, to minimise the financial and political baggage for the government from redevelopment of heritage sites. A heritage agreement that promises conservation of a heritage site in association with new development 'endorsed by the Heritage Office' is a political windfall for a government.

The only Heritage Agreement created in NSW to date is for *Tempe House*. It will undoubtedly be the prototype for future Agreements. The crux of this Agreement is that the developer will conserve *Tempe House* and part of its curtilage in return for an enormous commercial and retail development that actually encroaches on other areas of the curtilage. This curtilage, consisting of view cones, buildings, bushland and gardens, was defined by a previous Permanent Conservation Order (PCO). The Society trusts that the 'permanence' of the conserved *Tempe House* is more durable than the parts of Mt Olympus that have been excised from the PCO and destroyed.

Scott MacArthur

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Margôt Bray, Scott Winspear, Dulwich Hill; Beth Anderson, Enmore; Jacqueline Finch & Nick Yetzotis, Marrickville; Meg Munro & Murray Cook, Richard White & Linda Frow all of Newtown; Bridget Hales, Drummoyne; Alex-Oonagh Redmond, Leichhardt; Audrey Berry, Loftus; Mary Cleghorn, Ulladulla; Margaret Harris, Undercliffe; Patricia Steane, Wareemba.

PRESIDENT Peter 9550 3809

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