

MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY INC.

DULWICH HILL ENMORE LEWISHAM
ST PETERS SYDENHAM TEMPE



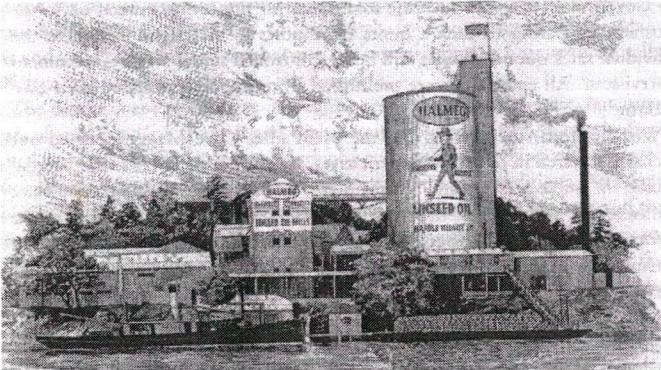
MARRICKVILLE PETERSHAM STANMORE
& PARTS OF CAMPERDOWN & NEWTOWN

OUR NEXT MEETING

Saturday 26 November 10 for 10.30 am
Herb Greedy Hall 79 Petersham Rd Marrickville
Exploring the River with Gregory Blaxell

Four questions relating to all or part of the Parramatta River will be posed. They are: Why has Balmain been at the hub of social change since 1855? Why was Hunters Hill often referred to as the 'French Village'? How does knowledge of the history of Bedlam Point, Gladesville reflect the changing patterns of the utilization of the river? How does a study of river transportation between Sydney and Parramatta mirror the urbanization of Sydney?

These questions will be explored through an historical study of each area. They give focus to the history and are an alternative to a virtual tour of the river. The talk will be illustrated using historically significant photographs, diagrams, drawings and paintings.



Historian **Gregory Blaxell** has been a primary, secondary and tertiary teacher, and while at the Australian Catholic University, became Head of Tertiary Services. He has worked in publishing, editing and developing educational projects. He has specialised in programs of language development at Infants and Primary levels and has co-authored *Go-Books*. In 2000 he was asked to write a short history of the Parramatta River for the Olympic Coordination Authority, leading to his authoritative river history, *The River: Sydney Cove to Parramatta*.

Sydney Bus Museum has kindly donated three complimentary family passes to the Society which are valid Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday 10 am to 3 pm. The museum is at 1b Gannon Street Tempe www.sydneybusmuseum.com.au phone 9558 1234. To obtain a pass ring Richard 9557 3823, but preference to family groups.

PRIZES IN SOCIETY'S RAFFLE

The Society is running a bumper raffle with a splendid range of prizes. Tickets are 1 for \$2, 2 for \$4, 5 for \$5, 10 for \$10. Tickets enclosed (in books of ten) with newsletter. Raffle will be drawn at annual Pot Luck Xmas Dinner on 3 December. Return butts with cheque or money order to address below to arrive by 1 December. All prizes have been generously donated:

1. Breakfast for 2 at Kelby's Cafe Marrickville
2. \$20 Xmas Box from Rise (Bakery) Newtown
3. Robert's home-made Xmas cake + bottle of port
4. Wine/spirits valued at \$35.00
5. Theatre tickets for 2 at New Theatre Newtown
6. Movie tickets for 2 at Dendy Newtown
7. Gift basket from Stanmore Station Pharmacy

But wait, there may be more prizes on the way!

Ian Rumsey (organiser)

HOW TO JOIN THE SOCIETY

Send a cheque or money order made out to the Marrickville Heritage Society with your name(s), address & phone number(s). Address below. Ring secretary Diane 9588 4930 for a brochure or further information. Membership includes monthly newsletter and monthly talk or outing (except December & January). Concession \$12, individual or joint concession \$20, household or organisation \$28. Members may recruit a friend with a gift membership.

ANNUAL POT LUCK XMAS DINNER SATURDAY 3 DECEMBER 6.30 FOR 7 PM

Already, I hear you say! Our annual Pot Luck Xmas dinner is Saturday 3 December again at Keith's mural house in Petersham. The MHS raffle will be drawn. BYO drink. Phone Angela 9280 2429 (a.h.) for address and to advise what food you will bring.



x See p 3 for story behind these demolished buildings!

OUR LAST MEETING: 22 OCTOBER

Catherine Brew, Conservation Officer with the National Trust, spoke to the Marrickville Heritage Society on *Why should I have my house heritage listed*, a topic not likely to be contentious given the sympathies of the audience!

She outlined the history and functions of the National Trust. It is a non-government body with 30,000 members, over 2,000 volunteers and was instrumental in saving many iconic buildings such as The Mint and Hyde Park Barracks. As she remarked: 'Could you imagine Macquarie Street without them'.

There are statutory (legal) listings: a Council's Local Environment Plan (LEP); the National Heritage List; the State Heritage Register and the Register of the National Estate.

The non-statutory listings include the National Trust Register; the Royal Australian Institute of Architects listing of 20th century buildings, and a list maintained by the Australian Institute of Engineers. While the National Trust listing has no legal weight it has enormous influence. Also s. 170 of the Heritage Act requires every NSW government department to maintain a listing of all their heritage items.

The benefits of listing are:

- * The property is protected from adjacent, inappropriate development
- * Access to specialised advice to 'get it right'
- * Access to grants/heritage funds programs
- * Confirms a heritage status and is a source of pride
- * Guides suitable renovations

The 'cons' of listing are:

- * Demolition of a heritage listed house is unlikely so the development potential of the land can't be realised
- * A general lack of understanding of the process in the community
- * Costs of renovation may be higher

The misconceptions are:

* 'You won't be able to change anything'. Catherine explained it depends what is significant about the property as to what can and can't be changed. You may not be able to change the front of a house if it forms a significant part of a streetscape but that may not affect what happens inside the house or at the back of it.

- * Houses have to be 'old' to be significant
- * Heritage listing decreases the value of your house. She admitted this may happen due to a lack of understanding in the mind of the general public but generally this was not the case.
- * You might have to open your house to visitors
- * It costs more to insure a heritage listed house. She said this was both true and false. However, the National Trust could provide the names of insurance companies who would 'accommodate' heritage listed houses.
- * 'It's hard to sell your house'. She acknowledged it may limit your clientele but also commented that some people seek out heritage listed properties.

* 'My house has no heritage merit whatsoever'. She stressed that different people see things differently at different times. She has an interest in post WWII fibro houses. I grew up in one. Significance is in the eye of the beholder!

* A building is not 'heritage' because it's not heritage listed

To answer the question 'Is my house heritage listed' she referred members to:

- * NSW Heritage Office www.heritage.nsw.gov.au
- * Local Councils' Local Environment Plan
- * National Trust Listing
- * Australian Heritage Directory at www.heritage.gov.au

Beyond Catherine's love of fibro architecture (sorry, I don't understand it) she is interested in industrial architecture and cemeteries. Her talk was well presented and informative but the most important aspect for the future of history and heritage in New South Wales was her passion for the topic. Well done, Catherine!

Angela Phippen

STRANGE TICKETS AT JOHN WRIGHT'S

MHS member John Wright is an unassuming guy who owns and runs an antiques and old wares shop at 529 King Street, South Newtown. For over ten years John has sold our *Heritage* journals and other publications without charging the Society commission. He also carries back newsletters and keeps a watchful eye on matters of potential local heritage concern.

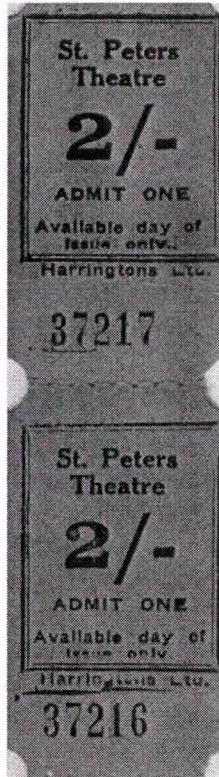
Sometimes he draws our attention to items of interest that turn up such as this roll of 2/- (two shillings) cinema tickets for St Peters Theatre on the eastern corner of King and Concord Streets, Newtown. This 1707-seat picture theatre was built in 1927 (architect Emil Sodersten, who designed the Australian War Memorial in Canberra) and closed in 1960. This imposing building with its impressive façade was for many years a retail outlet and is now undergoing renovation. Before St Peters Theatre the site housed the Coronation Theatre, later the Excelsior, before demolition in late 1926.

John also has a leather artillery ammunition case for a 303 Vickers Gun. It bears this unclear imprint:

?L. E. ?OWDEN & SON
KING ST NEWTOWN
1943

John thinks this may have been a tannery. Anyone with information can ring John most days from 11 to 5 on 9516 5754. And yes, the theatre tickets are for sale.

Richard Blair



MARITIME HERITAGE

(thanks to Pam Burden for furnishing these publications)

John Vaughan, Vexillographer writes to the October 2005 nautical magazine *Afloat*: "October 21 marks the bicentenary of the great battle of Trafalgar in 1805. The square-rigged, fighting ships of the Royal Navy, under the command of Horatio Nelson, won a momentous victory over the forces of Napoleonic France and Spain. The victory at Trafalgar was vitally important to Australia as the French were no longer an imperial threat to the Australasian colonies of Great Britain. Trade, immigration and political development were allowed to flourish in the Australasian colonies as a result of Nelson's victory and RN power. Nelson's bold and brilliant success, which cost him his life, earned him ongoing admiration and, annually, on Trafalgar Day 21 October, his deeds are honoured with a special toast to "The Immortal Memory".

It was not until 1913 that Australia was in a position to fully take over and carry on the Nelson tradition defending her shores with her own Royal Australian Navy. In that year, the last RN Admiral of the Australian Station was farewelled after 143 years of responsibility for guarding Australian waters. Admiralty House at Kirribilli was his home."

* * * *

The following is an excerpt from the 2005 Newsletter of the NSW Heritage Office's Underwater Heritage Program (apropos the May 2005 MHS newsletter):

"The Heritage Office has been undertaking research into the life of **James Johnson**, sole survivor of the *Dunbar* tragedy in 1857. Leads provided to the Marrickville Heritage Society have revealed information on two houses in Dulwich Hill, Sydney, linked to Johnson and his four daughters, whose graves have also been located at Rookwood Cemetery. The houses still exist at 83 and 85 The Boulevard. Johnson's last daughter died only in the 1950s, when the houses were sold out of the family. The research will result in a monograph on the life of Johnson post-Dunbar. The Newcastle Region Maritime Museum has been actively assisting with records of Johnson's time as a lighthouse keeper at Newcastle, NSW. A Heritage Office inspection dive was completed at the wreck in May 2005 to check on condition."

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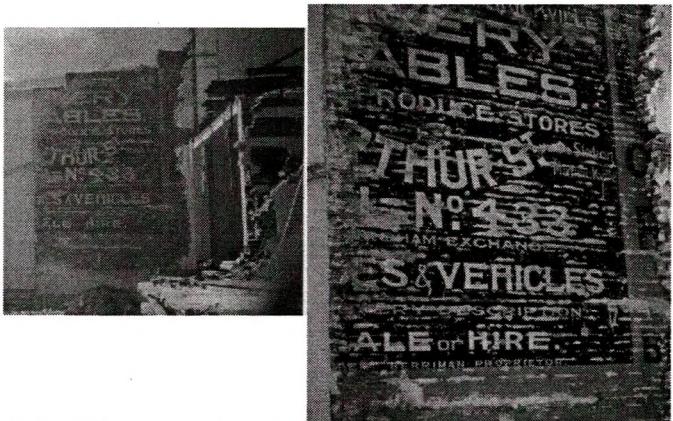
Also in the Heritage Office newsletter: "On Friday 10 December 2004 the Dep. Premier of NSW, Dr Andrew Refshauge, dived 19 metres to the wreck of the sailing ship *Centurion* to unveil the State's first underwater interpretative plaque." The *Centurion* struck North Head in a squall on 16 January 1887, while under tow. It is one of Sydney's most visited underwater wrecks.

* * * *

Some members will recall visiting Garden Island in March 1998 during our Sydney Sandstone tour. The RAN has just opened (parts of) Garden Island to the public with access by ferry. Entry is free, except to the Specific Exhibition Gallery (\$5) which is well worth a visit. Look for the Nelson exhibit. There are picnic areas, a viewing platform with superb panoramic views and a café. A highly recommended outing.

DEMOLITION REVEALS HISTORY

Demolition of two shops (façades remain) on the corner of Marrickville and Petersham Roads Marrickville (together with a house in Petersham Road) has revealed this wall sign (photos: Diane McCarthy).



John Edwards reports:

Albert Berriman first appears (in Sands Directory) at Arthur Street Marrickville as early as 1890 and he was still there in 1931. His occupation is usually given as "ropemaker" or "grass rope manufacturer", sometimes as "produce merchant". The "livery stables" is only mentioned around 1907-1910, which suggests that the ad comes from this period.

However the wall of the Marrickville Road shop, which appears to have been first a bootmaker's then a chemist's (which it still is) would not have been exposed after the adjoining shops (the ones just demolished except for their facades) had been built. They were there in 1901 Sands Directory - a laundry and an oyster shop. But the land appears to have been partly vacant in the 1890s, so maybe this is an advertisement which has not seen the light of day for 110 years! Did Marrickville have phones in the 1890s?

Albert Berriman's trading premises was about half-way along Arthur Street (the numbers vary) from Illawarra Road on the south side and he also had a house across the road No 13 "Rose Moor."

Looking at the Births Deaths & Marriages website, there is an Albert John Berriman, who died at Burwood in 1961 but there is no birth record, which suggests he was an immigrant. The only other likely candidate is an Albert Edward Cabell Berryman (sic) born 1873 at Moama, who died in 1951 at Hurstville. The dates look pretty good.

Mark Matheson's research confirms much of this. Mark notes that "an A E Berriman lived in Graham Avenue for many years whilst Mrs A Berriman was listed at 30 Petersham Road". Mark was advised by the demolisher that he had found an array of horse-shoes and horse-related leather apparatus on the site.

This seems to favour Albert Edward. The demolished corner shop for many years was the Town Hall Café. Thanks also to Barbara Burnett, Ian Phillips and Diane McCarthy for also alerting the editor to the uncovered signage. Diane had the foresight to photograph the buildings before demolition, which will hopefully appear in a future newsletter.

CALENDAR OF MHS EVENTS

SATURDAY 26 NOVEMBER

Exploring the River with Greg Blaxell

Details on front page

SATURDAY 3 DECEMBER

Annual Xmas Pot Luck Dinner

Details on front page

BOOK LAUNCH: HOPE IN HELL

MHS member Deborah Beck's book *Hope in Hell: A history of Darlinghurst Gaol and the National Art School* (Allen & Unwin, hardback, over 200 photographs, \$39.95) will be launched by the Hon. Bob Carr at 6 pm on Tuesday 15 November at the Cell Block Theatre, Forbes Street Darlinghurst (in the grounds of the former gaol). All members welcome.

"A fascinating glimpse into Australia's convict past, this is a rich visual account of one of the oldest and best-preserved examples of colonial Sydney architecture. Steeped in our early, brutal history and reputedly haunted, the site has been the centre of Sydney's art scene for 83 years and continues to be a place of creative and artistic endeavour as the National Art School." The gaol housed some of our most notorious criminals from 1822 to 1914 and many years later the sandstone buildings were transformed into a technical college which included the Cell Block Theatre.

Deborah Beck is an established painter who has been teaching and lecturing in art schools for over 20 years. She has been a lecturer in Drawing at the National Art School since 1999 during which time she has established an archive of the gaol and art school periods.

FESTIVAL STALLS

For the first time in years, the committee has decided not to have a stall at this year's Newtown Festival on 13 November. This is partly due to the exorbitant fees not-for-profit-organisation community stalls are now expected to pay, but also because this very popular festival is geared towards young people, who tend to have little interest in heritage matters.

Nor will the Society have a stall at the Dulwich Hill Street Fair in December because it is usually poorly attended and is held too close to Xmas.

The good news is that plans are afoot to reinstate the Cooks River Valley Festival next year - possibly April - and MHS is likely to have a stall then.

MHS member Joan Lawrence "recently took a group for a tour of Sydney Hospital and in the chapel the guide said the mosaic was a gift of the Tarrant family of Marrickville. She knew nothing else and would like to know more of the family and why the mosaic was donated."

Geoff Ostling's article *The Great War 1914-1918* using the St Clement's Parish Notes (*Heritage* 3, 1987, p 34) indicates two stained glass memorial windows showing St George slaying a dragon - the work of Mr Tarrant and Mr James of Illawarra Road Marrickville; verified by Glenn Wardmann (Local Studies).

Contact Joan 9909 8874 or <rjal@msn.com.au>

HERITAGE SHAME

HEBDEN 34 STATION STREET NEWTOWN*

Council has fallen at the last hurdle in its attempts to deal openly and honestly with a proposal to overdevelop historic *Hebden*. They started well: in March we reported that one of council's senior planning officers was part of the developer's team. They proposed to convert the burnt out ruins of this 130 year old sandstone house into a pair of three storey, four bedroom townhouses. So council wisely decided to refer the application to external assessors to manage any potential conflict of interest.

The Society and no lesser body then the National Trust had criticised inappropriate elevations and the wanton destruction of walls, windows and doors. The external assessors agreed and the developers modified the scheme to retain more of the remaining internal fabric and delete some weird dormers in the new roof facing Station Street. But although the height and density of the development were both strongly criticised by the Society and the National Trust, the developers did not alter them. The revised scheme was not re-advertised, nor was it reviewed by the external assessor's heritage consultant or council's heritage adviser. Despite the apparent conflict of interest in the face of expert criticism, council allowed its officers to recommend approval of the development. Bizarrely, the officers stated that the revised proposal would address the concerns raised by the National Trust and other objectors. In spite of the Society pointing out the blatant falsehoods in the officers' report, and the failure of the officers to provide truly independent assessment of the development, the proposal was overwhelmingly approved by council. All three political groupings in council supported this travesty.

Apart from council officers, the supporters of the proposal were a few people who countersigned the plans. According to council there were only three objections: one from the many-thousand-strong National Trust, one from the several-hundred-strong Marrickville Heritage Society, and a neighbour (to whom many thanks for increasing the objectors' numbers by 50%).

In a previous debate that evening, a councillor had been acclaimed for the bold suggestion that Marrickville needed higher density commercial areas, but must protect the lower density residential conservation areas. When reminded of this in the *Hebden* debate, councillors laughed.

Nice to know they can still laugh!

Scott MacArthur

* Now on market with DA approval

We note the recent passing of two members: Janet McNulty of Stanmore and Alexandria, a member since 1998; and Walter Smith of Sans Souci. Walter was briefly a MHS member, but was well known in his local area. Our condolences to their families.

PRESIDENT Lorraine 9550 6608

TREASURER Stuart 95608070

HERITAGE WATCH Scott 9559 5736

NEWSLETTER EDITOR Richard 9557 3823