

MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY INC.



DULWICH HILL ENMORE LEWISHAM
ST PETERS SYDENHAM TEMPE

MARRICKVILLE PETERSHAM STANMORE
& PARTS OF CAMPERDOWN & NEWTOWN

OUR NEXT MEETING

**Tour of Randwick and Prince Henry Hospital Nursing & Medical Museum, Little Bay by coach
Saturday 29 March**

Meet Petersham Town Hall at 9.15 for 9.30am sharp departure. BYO lunch & drink. Expected return by 5pm. Cost \$25. Bookings Stuart 9560 8070. Note: on fifth Saturday as Easter is previous weekend.

For our first outing of 2008 we will visit the Randwick & District Historical Society's meeting rooms to view their local studies collection, and then go for a ramble around Randwick. After lunch we will proceed to the Prince Henry Hospital Nursing & Medical Museum.

Due to a growing epidemic of smallpox in Sydney, the Coast Hospital was established at Little Bay in 1881 and in 1883 it became the first public hospital in NSW. Later a convalescent, then an infectious diseases hospital, in 1934 it was renamed the Prince Henry Hospital in honour of the visit to Sydney by HRH Prince Henry, Duke of Gloucester. With the hospital's closure in 2002, much of the area is being redeveloped by Landcom into a housing estate, catering in part, for aged care. This museum opened in 2003 and the many items on view include a working "iron lung" – the last operating in NSW – and much else that will fascinate and intrigue as to their usage. Ah, the mysteries of the medical profession!



Prince Henry Hospital circa 1960s

HOW TO JOIN THE SOCIETY

Send a cheque or money order made out to Marrickville Heritage Society with your name(s), address & phone number(s). Society's address below. For a brochure or further information ring Richard 9557 3823. Membership includes monthly newsletter, journal *Heritage* and monthly talk or outing. Concession \$12, individual or joint concession \$20, household or organization \$28. Membership to end of May 2009.

**National Trust Festival events 5-20 April
incl. Marrickville Medal: see back page.**

GRAVE HERITAGE CONCERNS

Tina Jackson, Executive Director of the National Trust of Australia (NSW) writes in the online NT newsletter of 22 February:

"Community concern is mounting about the marginalisation of heritage and of our heritage laws. The latest blow came this week with the announcement that the Heritage Office will effectively be dismantled. The Heritage Act and the Heritage Council are being reviewed, but the submissions have not been made public and the outcome is still unknown. Part 3(A) of the Planning Act already allows the Minister to switch off the Heritage Act. The proposed 'streamlining' of the planning system further threatens heritage protection. **The cumulative effect of these changes on several fronts amounts to a crisis in heritage conservation. The places we hold dear may now be at risk.** The situation is now urgent with the new planning legislation due to be passed in June, a decision on major developments such as Catherine Hill Bay due imminently and the continuing silence about the outcomes of the Heritage Review."

"The National Trust is urging the community to act: a) join the National Trust; b) check the Trust's website (www.nsw.nationaltrust.org.au) for details and campaigns, and c) write to the Planning Minister."

Nat'l Trust President Zeny Edwards writes:

"The major restructure at the Department of Planning is yet again set to denigrate the value of heritage with the announcement of the 'dismantling' of the Heritage Office. The Office has been emasculated with most of its staff relocated elsewhere in the Department and only a 'core' left to service the Heritage Council. **This move reinforces the view that heritage is a very low priority for [state] government, being seen as the obstacle to development.** Most notably, the Heritage Office has been sidelined under Part 3(A) of the NSW planning legislation, which enables Minister for Planning Frank Sartor to approve developments deemed 'State significant', overriding heritage and environmental policies and legislation."

"It is sad but true that the National Trust may be the only community advocate left to fight for heritage. Its own survival is seriously under threat because of drastic cuts to government grants."

< See overleaf for more on these issues >

More from 22 February Online National Trust Newsletter

Heritage Office Disbanding

"Heritage Office key staff have been subsumed into the Department of Planning. This has been portrayed by the [state] government as a positive step feeding heritage expertise directly into development planning teams. However, there is little doubt that the influence, advisory capacity and precautionary role of the Heritage Office will now be swamped by development promotion priorities and directives."

"The independence and public face of the Heritage Office as a heritage ambassador has now been downgraded and with the scattering of the staff throughout the Planning Department there will be few people able or willing to speak out when it is most needed. The advocacy and educational roles of the Office have been effectively removed and much needed support for local government will be drastically curtailed. The National Trust is taking every possible opportunity to condemn these actions and calls on its members to voice their concerns at every opportunity."

Planning System Changes

"The Trust's submission to the 'Planning System Reforms' has condemned many aspects of the proposed changes. We have stressed that speeding up the system should not be at the expense of heritage protection. We have also pointed out that most councils are within the statutory period for development approvals, particularly compared with other countries. **Much of the alleged 'red tape' is not 'road blocks' to development but effective 'speed humps' to slow down questionable developments to allow proper evaluation and public input.** The Trust has argued that development applications should always be required for heritage items and within heritage conservation areas."

"Statewide default planning codes also pose great dangers as some 'minor' developments to historic and architecturally significant buildings within streetscapes and heritage precincts would have the potential to seriously degrade those places. Accredited local codes must be allowed to be more stringent than statewide codes and to develop best practice guidelines to accompany new Local Environmental Plans. This would enable people lodging development applications to have a clear understanding of the documentation required and the limits of acceptable development."

VALE PAT KAIN

Sad news sometimes travels slowly. We note the passing a year ago of MHS member **Pat Kain** who died on 3 March 2007 aged 77. Pat had long lived in Petersham, and was employed as a typist at the former Petersham Council until its 1949 merge with Marrickville Council, where she later became secretary to the general manager until her retirement in 1993. Our condolences to her long time partner Pat Jessop, also a MHS member.

LOCAL HERITAGE WATCH CONCERNS

Marrickville Councillors have previously been advised, that as part of the preparation of the **new Local Environmental Plan (LEP)**, the 'draft' status of the local Conservation Areas will need to be formalised. It now appears that this can only be achieved by commissioning **another** Heritage Study Review for tens of thousands of dollars in consultancy fees. It appears that the previous Heritage Study Review, that Council has already paid for, is unsalvageable, and that the whole process of preparing the Heritage Study (Review) has to begin again (commissioning and briefing consultants, community consultation, research and adoption). Given the political devilry that scuttled the last HSR, **the Society is very concerned about what compromises will be required to get a majority of the next Council to commit to true protection of the heritage values of the LGA.**

* * * * *

Council has received a report detailing three further options for the **redevelopment of the Old Marrickville Hospital site, with various levels of development and demolition of heritage listed buildings.** None of these options complies with Council's existing zoning and heritage protection listings, but all apparently would provide Council with the financial return that appears to be the bottom line in the consideration of the future of this site, as the 'golden nest egg' for all of Council's future plans into the foreseeable future. The next step will require a majority of Councillors to decide to proceed with the preparation of the Development Control Plan for the site on this basis, of one of these options, so that it can be approved by the Department of Planning. **Councillors that support this flouting of Council's own codes and heritage listings should know that they will be held accountable come Council election time later this year.**

Scott MacArthur

MORE MARRICKVILLE CLUBS AT RISK

With Marrickville RSL now closed, two other old Marrickville clubs are at risk. *The Glebe* (14/2/08, p 9) reported **Marrickville Bowling and Recreation Club** (est'd 1905) 91 Sydenham Road had gone into voluntary administration and the "owners were in negotiations about the future of the club." *The Sydney Morning Herald's* Company Notices (18/2/08, p 23) said Expressions of interest for amalgamation with registered club, **Marrickville Anzac Memorial Club Ltd.** sought by 18/3/08; administrators appointed. The Anzac Club (est'd 1921 in Garners Avenue) is said to be Sydney's oldest Soldiers' club. Phone calls made 1/3/08 revealed "business as usual" at both clubs.



M'ville Bowling Club (p. 88 'History of Marrickville' 1936)

OUR LAST MEETING SHOW AND TELL: 23 FEBRUARY

Nostalgia abounded at the Herb Greedy Hall for the Society's first meeting of the year. Not least was this evident in **Pam Burden's** memorabilia from the ocean voyage she undertook as a 3 year old with her family aboard the RMS *Ceramic* of the Cunard White Star Line (rendered more appropriate by the passing of Liner Queens *Victoria* and *Elizabeth II* in Sydney Harbour the following day).

One could almost hear the hooter of the RMS *Ceramic* as it crept up Sydney Harbour way back in 1926. Pam produced a fan, a sterling silver pot and a list of passengers bound for Southampton, as well as a diary lovingly compiled by her 14 year old sister, Cherie.

From roughly the same era we saw a range of cricket souvenirs retained by

Graham Hunt's father who wielded the willow playing for Marrickville Presbyterians in the Western Suburbs Churches Cricket Union competition, still going strong well beyond its century. Then there was

Joan Francis's Shirley Temple doll in her sparkling polka dot dress, but sans curly locks, plus associated ST storybooks. How proud Joan was to share her Shirley with us! Talking of

which, **Shirley Hilyard** shared her scrapbooks – the Sydney Mint, 1st Burns Bay Cubs in Lane Cove 1975 campaign to ban whaling and her 1996 MHS newsletter archive and attachments, all labours of love.

Venturing further back was the 1911 token commemorating the first visit of the Commonwealth Fleet to Sydney. Tokens were given to primary school children, one of whom lost his token in the laundry of his Burren Street Newtown house, only to be discovered 75 years later by **Shirley Doolan** when she bought the house. From the 1860s we saw

Bob and Laurel Horton's framed watercolour of St Peters Church given to them by the great granddaughter of the incumbent rector, the Rev. Augustine Howie Bull; **Alex-Oonagh Redmond** proudly showed her treasured "penny black" stamps dating from the 1840s; whilst **Richard Blair's** 1804 Germanic bee-themed token was quite a curiosity.

However, in the antiquity stakes, nothing could match **Dot Sullivan's** certificate authenticating her as a bona fide descendant of Richard Warren, one of the Mayflower people in 1620. The line was through Dot's great grandfather, (first name) Prince Francis Little, first OIC of the Water Police in Sydney in the 1850s.

No less interesting were **David Buick's** mid Victorian

mahogany children's chair acquired in 1960s London and his loving restoration of it; or **Tony Breinl's** silk flag with the Union Jack in one corner and a message written in several languages. This was carried in wartime by fighter pilots in the event that being shot down, sympathetic rescuers could act accordingly.

Inspired by the segment in *The Collectors* program on TV, our imaginations were tested by some mystery items – a delicate porcelain bowl or vase, perhaps a holder for tulips, and **Laurel Horton's** curious device for cleaning brass buttons on uniforms without the cleaning fluid damaging the fabric.

And there was much more. Coordinating our display was collector extraordinaire **Robert Hutchinson** who also produced a range of diverse paraphernalia including an uncensored letter dated 25/5/1918 from Sapper JH Day camped on the Salisbury Plain and sent to 101 Douglas Street Stanmore.

Congratulations to our (bottle of wine) winners –

Tony Breinl, David Buick, Pam Burden, Joan Francis and Laurel Horton. Thanks to our MC/judge **Robert Hutchinson** and fellow judges, **Scott MacArthur and Rowena Ward.** With such a bumper roll-up (over 60) and the range and quality of the goods on display, my bet is it won't be long before we do this again.

Richard Blair

Photos clockwise from above top – **Tony Breinl** with silk flag; **Ian Phillips's** vintage portable typewriter; **Rowena Ward** grimaces at

Ted Green's "mystery" massager; **Robert Hutchinson's** local cricket shield; **Bob Horton's** watercolour; **Robert Hutchinson** with **Joan Francis** holding Shirley Temple doll and storybook; **Richard Blair** spruiking on the works of his father; and **Pam Burden** with Cunard Line decorative fan.

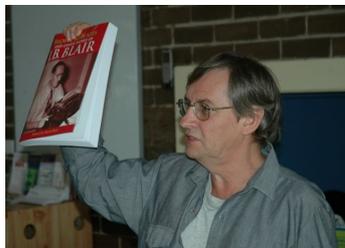
Photos: **Scott MacArthur**

AFTERLIFE OF A NEWSLETTER!

What do you do once you've read your newsletter? We don't need to know, but if you don't archive it, consider giving it to a friend, neighbour or new arrival in your area; otherwise leave it at your doctor's surgery or local community centre; should you have a number of old newsletters, you could also return to the editor. If none of these options appeal, use newsletters as wallpaper or dispose of thoughtfully by recycling.

AUTUMN TRIVIA QUESTION

Garner the Fruits of Industry – Give the location and name of the City of Sydney building on whose exterior these words are carved (Ring Richard 9557 3823 or, after 8 March, blairitage@optusnet.com.au).



CALENDAR OF MHS EVENTS

Saturday 29 March

Tour of Randwick and Prince Henry Hospital Nursing & Medical Museum Little Bay

Details on front page

Saturday 26 April

Barrie Dyster talks on *Antarctica, The Arctic, The Moon and Sydney*

OTHER EVENTS

Saturday 29 & Sunday 30 March 10am-3pm each day
Riverworks, Cooks River

Environmental Sculpture Competition

Gough Whitlam Park Bayview Street Undercliffe

Details on www2.canterbury.nsw.gov.au/riverworks or ring Yolande 9789 9485.

Wednesday 2 April 6-8pm

Justice & Police Museum

Albert Street, Circular Quay

Illustrated talk – *Pubs and Crime in 20th Century Sydney* – by curator and Sydney pubs expert **Charles Pickett** with overview by Justice & Police Museum curator **Caleb Williams**; evening topped off with exhibition viewing and tasting of some of Sydney's finest amber fluid. General admission \$20; concession/members \$15. Bookings 8239 2211. Exhibition *Sydney Pubs: Liquor, Larrikins and the Law* until 2 November.

Thursday 3 April at 3.30pm

Two Valley Trail Photographic Exhibition

Campsie Library, Amy Street Campsie (until 13/4)

To be opened by **Her Excellency, the Governor of NSW, Professor Marie Bashir**. Sixty special photos have been selected for the exhibition, highlighting some of the stunning views and hidden treasures to be found in the Cooks River and Wollie Creek Valleys.

This is part of a wider Two Valley Trail Project by five local community groups centred around the development of a 13 kilometre walking trail through the Wollie Creek Valley and the Cooks River Valley. Enquiries Peter 9554 3176.

Friday 4 April 5-8pm - Petersham Town Hall

Retrospective Photo Exhibition for 1st Youth Festival held in Marrickville in 1958. Enquiries 9335 2287.

Saturday 5 April 2pm

'My Place' Is Our Place

St Peters Cooks River History Group

187 Princes Highway St Peters

Nadia Wheatley's *My Place* bases its historical and geographical background on "our place" – St Peters, Sydenham, Tempe. Workshop looks at the book, how it relates to the area and the places which existed then and now. Suitable all ages. Free. Enquiries 9558 7504.

Wednesday 9 April 9 am-4 pm

Marrickville Council's Photographic Exhibition of Vicars Woollen Mills at Marrickville Metro, featuring a talk by **John Vicars** (MHS member), the last of the Vicars family to manage the mill which occupied this site from 1893 to 1976. There will also be **short tours of the site and surrounding streets** by the Marrickville Historian. Free. Enquiries 9335 2287.

Wednesday 9 April 6.30-8pm

Leichhardt Library, Italian Forum

23 Norton St Leichhardt

Launch of writer-historian-performer **Mary Haire's** new book *Place is People – Annandale 1907/2007* by actress and author Judy Nunn. Free – bookings essential 9367 9223. Refreshments served. Book (signed by author) \$20, focuses on Annandale in 1907.

Sunday 13 April 10am

Unveiling of Historic Plaque in Newtown

Marrickville Council will dedicate a plaque to John Webster on the wall of the Zanzibar Hotel, 323 King Street Newtown – site of the former New Town Store. Free. Enquiries 9335 2114.

Sunday 13 April 9am-1pm

Wollie Creek Valley Walk

From Wollie Creek station conducted by Wollie Creek Preservation Society. Limited numbers: \$10 single; WCPS members free. Bookings essential 9559 2821.

Sunday 13 April 11am-4pm

Cooks River Sustainability & Arts Festival
Steel Park, Marrickville South

Come to this vibrant, alternate festival where MHS will have a stall.

2008 MARRICKVILLE MEDAL: 16 APRIL

The Marrickville Heritage Festival recognises and celebrates quality conservation and restoration work. This year's ceremony is on **Wednesday 16 April at 6pm** at Petersham Town Hall and will also include presentation of People's Choice Award and a Special Achievement Award, plus an address by a special guest. Refreshments provided; bookings 9335 2114.

Saturday 19 April 10am

Sydenham Stuff-Ups! with Mark Matheson

Meet Henry Street & Railway Lane

Walking tour of Sydenham. \$5 incl. illustrated leaflet. Bookings essential 9559 5502 or 0409 617 778.

Saturday 19 April 2pm

Tempe Walk from Tempe Station, Griffith Street

Limited numbers – bookings essential 9558 7504. Free. Learn of the places and people of this overlooked suburb with the St Peters Cooks River History Group.

Bligh-related Exhibitions (both venues open daily)

State Library of NSW until 27 April

Politics & Power: Bligh's Sydney Rebellion 1808

Museum of Sydney, cnr Bridge and Phillips Streets until June 2009

The ever memorable 26 January 1808

PRESIDENT Scott 9559 5736

HERITAGE WATCH Scott 9559 5736

TREASURER Stuart 9560 8070

NEWSLETTER EDITOR Richard 9557 3823