

MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY INC.



DULWICH HILL ENMORE LEWISHAM
ST PETERS SYDENHAM TEMPE

MARRICKVILLE PETERSHAM STANMORE
& PARTS OF CAMPERDOWN & NEWTOWN

OUR NEXT MEETING

Saturday 27 June 10.15 for 10.30am

Annual General Meeting

Herb Greedy Hall 79 Petersham Road Marrickville

The president invites all members to our 25th Annual General Meeting. Reports on the progress of the Society over the past year will be presented and all executive committee positions will be declared vacant. Nominations for president, two vice presidents, treasurer, secretary, assistant secretary and up to six committee positions may be made in advance in writing or on the day. Committee meetings are held on the first Monday evening of each month (except January). For more information about the committee or meeting requirements ring Richard on 9557 3823.

Members are reminded that they must have paid their 2009-10 membership fees to stand for office, to nominate or second a candidate, or to vote at the AGM. Fees payable on the day. The AGM will be followed by lunch consisting of soup and bread, paté, cake, tea and coffee. Stay and mingle with fellow members and the new committee.

MHS ANNUAL FEES NOW DUE

Fees for 2009-10 fell due on 1 June and most members should receive a **renewal slip** (organisations an invoice) with their June newsletter. Non-receipt of a slip means either you have joined recently, paid ahead, or your slip was lost in transit. Please advise on slip if details are incorrect and ignore if fees have been paid in the interim. You may either pay at the AGM, or send a cheque or money order made out to Marrickville Heritage Society with your slip to MHS PO Box 415 Marrickville 1475. Fees are unchanged – concession \$12, individual or joint concession \$20, household or organisation \$28.

The renewal slip also asks for members' email address to be added to the list for global notifications if you wish, should you not receive these already or if your email address has recently changed.

WINGED VICTORY UPDATE

As a result of inquiries from the Society to Council, in relation to the future of the Winged Victory, we have received the following advice from Council:

You will be aware that the statue was removed in late April to allow for the laying of wreaths on Anzac Day / The statue is currently being stored at Council's St Peters Depot pending the adoption of Council's draft 2009-10 Budget, which has a funding allocation for restoration of the Winged Victory Statue / If the draft budget is adopted unchanged, Council will arrange for non-destructive testing to be undertaken in July 2009 to determine the extent of corrosion and a suitable scope of remediation actions / A suitably qualified Conservation consultant will be engaged

Margaret Sinclair cuts the Society's 25th Birthday celebration cake:

story back page (photo: Lorraine Beach)



to guide us through this process / Council will have a clear understanding of the scope of remediation works required once the testing has been completed / I am pleased to advise that Council is also lodging applications for grants funding to assist the project.

The Society remains concerned about the fate of the iconic statue for several reasons. Firstly, there is no mention of involving Dr Alex Kolozsy, the renowned sculptor who restored the statue in 1988. Council has completely ignored its responsibilities under the Copyright (Moral Rights) Act legislation that requires anyone modifying a work of art to inform and respect the rights of the artist. More importantly, Dr Kolozsy has professional experience in this work, and obviously a uniquely intimate knowledge of the statue. It is ridiculous of Council to suggest that anyone else should be repairing the statue.

Secondly, there still seems to be no guarantee that funds will be allocated to this work, and when it will proceed. The Society understands that the budget allocation is for

investigation work only in the next financial year. There is *still* no commitment from Council that the statue will be restored!

Thirdly, the breathless advice that Council is applying for grants 'to assist the project' is scary. Why is Council so careful to not say what 'the project' is, and does this mean that any 'project' (restoration?) is *contingent* on Council getting someone else to pay?

The Mayor and Councillors must immediately affirm that the Winged Victory will be restored, and direct Council staff to pursue this objective, and to stop being obstructive, secretive, insensitive and evasive.

Scott MacArthur

HERITAGE WATCH REPORT

Enmore School

Enmore School in Metropolitan Road Enmore was constructed in 1887 to a design by William Kemp, the department of Education's Chief Architect. The school was one of the many large public schools that were erected in the area following the introduction of the NSW Public Instruction Act 1880. This Act established statutory minimum school attendance levels for 6-14 year olds and withdrew State funding for church schools. Consequently, church schools (except for the Catholic Church) withdrew as providers of education, with a following unprecedented demand for public education.

Enmore School was erected to satisfy demand for places in the public education system that could not be met by existing schools in the area. The school has been modified over the years to keep up to date with prevailing teaching requirements, but remains substantially intact. Architecturally it can be described as a two storey public school building, generally intact late Victorian Georgian style with an interesting if eclectic Edwardian late Federation style addition.

All of this is interesting from an architectural or historical point of view, but it is the kind of 'heritage speak' that you will probably find in the sale brochure for the building, because the Department of Education is trying to sell it for apartments!

The true significance of Enmore School is that its essential character as a local school for the local community has persisted for well over 100 years. The Conservation Management Plan (CMP) for the building boldly states that the historic use of the place plays a major role in its cultural significance. As it was used as a local public school for over 100 years and then by the Adult Multicultural Education Services for several years, its cultural significance is directly linked to its use, as that use is embodied in its form, layout and fabric. The CMP dryly states that the continued use of the property as a school would maintain this aspect of its significance, and obviously, that the loss of the original use would diminish its significance in some way.

However, the Society argues that the withdrawal of the school from this building by the State Government has a much greater symbolic significance. This public school was established by a Colonial Government that was providing this community with the opportunity to improve itself. The Government of the day wanted its children to have education in their own districts. The Government wanted educated children that would develop into responsible adults that would then build their community, their district, their colony, and eventually their nation.

There are many children and adults looking to education for a fresh start in this community and this district. They, and the Society, are asking why this Government won't give them the same opportunity to receive that education in this area, in this building, that other governments have done over the past 115 years.

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Colchester Hall Woodcourt St Marrickville

The sad saga of *Colchester* continues. The first references to *Colchester* appeared around 1880 when Sands Directory listed a residence named *Colchester Hall* in Marrickville Road, occupied by James Beaumont. James Beaumont was a painter, house decorator and contractor, and achieved some prominence in the local community when he became an alderman of Marrickville Municipal Council (1880-81). *Colchester Hall* was originally a two storey building with wide verandahs on at least two sides oriented towards the east. Its external configuration was unusual because of a series of gabled roofs over the various sections of the dwelling. Over the years, the house has been left to deteriorate, and has suffered from fires, termites and rot, but continues to stand in spite of all this, a tribute to its robust original construction.

The current proposal is to subdivide the bulk of the site from the house and 'restore' it, and construct a 16-dwelling apartment building on the remainder of the site. The Society has raised the following concerns about this proposal with Council:

- 1) The Society believes that the new apartment buildings are too tall and too close to the existing building, to allow any sense of privacy for a prestigious house, that could certainly be a home for a large wealthy family. There would be an expectation of a large and private yard. It also crowds the heritage house.
- 2) The proposal includes the construction of a garage in front of *Colchester Hall*. This intrusive construction compromises the significant street elevation of the house.
- 3) There is no Heritage Impact Assessment submitted with the application. The Heritage Assessment that was provided in the application made no comment on this scheme and was undated.
- 4) There was no detail as to what 'full restoration' of the house would comprise. No scope of work was provided for the restoration. 'Full restoration' is the term used in the Statement of Environmental Effects, but on the drawing the scope is described as 'refurbish and repair the entire existing structure to a habitable condition.' The latter is definitely not conservation as defined in the Burra Charter (as cited in the Heritage Assessment).
- 5) Finally, there is no guarantee that this 'restoration' or 'refurbish' work will be carried out. Conservation works to the satisfaction of Council's Heritage and Urban Design Advisor should be completed prior to the subdivision being granted.

The Society is pleased that the heritage house is proposed for retention, but more care and consideration of the work to the house and the surrounding development are required.

Scott MacArthur

To mark the 20th anniversary of *My Place* by Nadia Wheatley and Donna Rawlins, the ABC is filming around the Marrickville area, a children's series with a strong cast in 13 episodes. *My Place* presents 130 years of history of one local house through the eyes of children, one of whom sits in the Moreton Bay fig tree (at Camperdown Cemetery) in each episode.

AUTUMN TRIVIA ANSWER: NOTABLE LOCAL MAYORS

Question Which mayors of Camperdown, Marrickville, Newtown, Petersham and St Peters achieved fame in some area not connected with politics or local government?

According to Cashman & Meader *Marrickville: Rural outpost to inner city* (1990), Camperdown had 17 mayors (1868-1908); Marrickville three chairmen (1861-67) and 62 mayors (1867-2009); Newtown five chairmen (1862-69) and 42 mayors (1869-1948); Petersham 37 mayors (1872-1948); and St Peters 44 mayors (1871-1948). So with 208 possible candidates (**Joseph Kingsbury** was both Chairman of Newtown 1864-65 and Mayor of Newtown 1870-71; **JF Laxton** was Mayor of Petersham 1942-43, 1945-48, and Mayor of Marrickville 1959) one would expect that some excelled in a non-political field.

Indeed we find that some mayors were well known in business. Men such as **Robert Fowler** (Mayor of Camperdown 1870-72), son of Enoch Fowler, founder of Fowler's Pottery; **Percy Hordern** (Mayor of Petersham 1897-97, 1903-05 and 1908-10) involved in the family drapery business; **Tom Hoskins** (Mayor of Petersham 1910-12, 1915-16) who established and operated a motor bus service as well as being involved in various community organisations; and **William Henry Paling** Mayor of Petersham 1881-82; alderman at Petersham 1876-89). Born in Holland, Paling lived in *Woerden* in Cambridge Street Stanmore and founded the firm of Palings Music Store. In June 1886 he presented a clock for the tower of Petersham Town Hall, where it remained in service until the building was demolished in 1938.

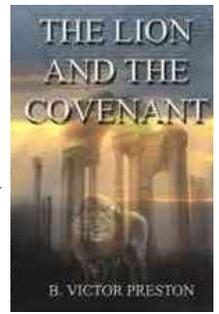
Joseph Graham (nine times Mayor of Marrickville between 1870 and 1890) owner of *Lilydale*, owned a plant nursery and was also involved in a range of public concerns. His son-in-law **Frank Broome Wright** (Mayor of Marrickville 1932, 1941), received an MBE in 1937 for services to the community other than merely in the area of local government. **Milton Jarvie** (Mayor of Marrickville 1927; article in September 2008 newsletter) had distinguished World War I service, receiving a Military Cross and had later a successful business career.

At least one local mayor had a book written about him — **Charles St Julian** (1818-74; Mayor of Marrickville 1868-1870, 1871-72). In Marion Diamond's *Creative Meddler: The life and fantasies of Charles St Julian* (Melbourne University Press, 1990), he was described as having led "a useful and moderately influential life as a journalist and sometime newspaper proprietor." He was a law reporter with the *Sydney Morning Herald* for 20 years. He became involved in Pacific affairs — in Hawaii, Samoa, Tonga and Fiji whence he moved with his family and became Chief Justice. As the title may suggest St Julian was something of an eccentric.

Thanks to **Diane McCarthy**, the sole respondent, who provided some names. Future contributions are welcome — the mayor the merrier!

Richard Blair

Associate MHS member and local resident **Bruce Preston** has written this mystery thriller, partly set in Australia and "packed with explosive but carefully-researched historical fact . . . Startling discoveries begin to reveal hitherto concealed history; the 'enigma of the ages' begins to unravel as the two heroes Tom and Kate follow clues meant only for the highest Masonic orders." If this is your thing, then check Google for more information. As for purchasing the book, Bruce has opted for print-on-demand, such that orders go to Amazon which prints copies as required. This means it is cheaper to buy (\$19.95) but postage is added. Further information <brucepre@acon.com.au> or phone 9519 0205.



HISTORIC SYDNEY MAPS DIGITISED

Members may be interested in several historic map series of Sydney which have been digitised by the State Library of New South Wales and are available through the Library Catalogue. The most significant of these is the Sydney Metropolitan Detail Series <<http://library.sl.nsw.gov.au/record=b2281363>>, a series of Lands Department maps covering Sydney and its inner suburbs from the 1880s to the 1910s. This is a fascinating source of information for local history, land use and urban studies, as these maps show the outlines of buildings and help researchers understand the historical development of Sydney and suburbs.

Key maps and the entire series (over 700 sheets) can be viewed online at <http://image.sl.nsw.gov.au/cgi-bin/ebindshow.pl?doc=mser4_811/a1367;thumbs=1>;

Fire & Accident Underwriters Association's Block Plan City of Sydney, 1919-1940, <<http://library.sl.nsw.gov.au/record=b2241470>> (133 sheets plus index map at http://image.sl.nsw.gov.au/cgi-bin/ebindshow.pl?doc=mser2_811/a1358;thumbs=1);

The Lands Department's Parramatta Detail Series of 1895 <<http://library.sl.nsw.gov.au/record=b2282100>> (69 sheets plus index map at <http://image.sl.nsw.gov.au/cgi-bin/ebindshow.pl?doc=mser4_811/a1364;thumbs=1>);

The Lands Department's Municipality Map Series, 1917-1957 at <<http://library.sl.nsw.gov.au/record=b2239298>> (64 sheets plus index map at <http://image.sl.nsw.gov.au/cgi-bin/ebindshow.pl?doc=mser4_811/a1363;thumbs=1>).

Chris King

TREE PRESERVATION

In the wake of the recent loss of a small forest at Orphan Creek in Forest Lodge and of four elm trees and nine palm trees cut down by Energy Australia in the Marrickville LGA, a local non partisan community tree watch group has been established. It plans to gather information about trees which are inappropriately earmarked for removal and to encourage individuals to lobby for tree preservation aimed at saving these trees for the benefit of the community, future generations and the environment.

For further information contact Jacqueline Yetzotis on <mintblue@bigpond.com> or ring 9559 7638.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Saturday 27 June
Annual General Meeting
Details on front page

Saturday 25 July
A walking tour of St Andrew's College
with Dr Ian Jack

Saturday 22 August
Dr John Pickard on *Australian rural fences*

Saturday 26 September
Coach trip to Wallsend and environs

Saturday 24 October
David Levell on his book *Tour to Hell*

DOT SULLIVAN HONOURED

Dorothy (Dot) Sullivan was among 47 women over 90 years old honoured for service to their community on 8 May at Parliament House Sydney. The occasion was the Annual Jean Arnot Memorial Luncheon hosted by the National Council of Women, and Business and Professional Women, and supported by the State Library. Among the guest speakers was Ambassador for Aging, **Noeline Brown**, another MHS member.

Dot was born in Camperdown, attended Stanmore Public School and Burwood Girls High. From 1964 to 2000 Dot was Secretary of the Petersham RSL Women's Auxiliary. She received the Certificate of Merit from RSL Australia in 1984 and the Australia Day Achievement Medal in 1988. Dot became a Life Member of Petersham RSL in 2000 for services rendered to Service personnel and civilians over many years. She was also involved with the Petersham War Widow's Guild Club. Her interest in genealogy enabled her to trace her family tree back to Richard Warren, a pilgrim on the *Mayflower* which arrived in America in 1620 (as presented at the MHS 2008 *Show & Tell*).



Dot's other achievements (including a 48-year long marriage prior to her husband Patrick's death in 1998) are beyond the scope of this newsletter, but ironically Dot has also had associations with Petersham Bowling Club where Lorraine Beach's sparkling photo was taken on 30 May at the Society's 25th Birthday celebrations.

OUR LAST MEETING MHS 25TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

There may well be no such thing as a free lunch but to celebrate our Silver Anniversary MHS provided this very thing to its members on Saturday 30 May at Petersham Bowling Club. The club dates back to 1896 making this a fitting venue which warrants public support especially given their the club committee's brave stance to remove the hungry, noisy poker machines. Seventy five MHS members and friends partook of the roast lamb and pork accompanied by champagne with which we toasted our 25th birthday.

Among those present were three founding members (Lu Bell, Richard Cashman and Chrys Meader); three life members (Shirley Hilyard, Chrys Meader and Margaret Sinclair); and nine presidents (chronologically, Richard Cashman, Geoff Ostling, Shirley Hilyard, Lindsay Smyth, Richard Blair, Robert Hutchinson, Peter Cousens, Lorraine Beach and the still-serving Scott MacArthur, the day's MC; apologies came from ex-presidents Bob Thompson and Diane McCarthy). Travelling from afar to our celebration were Norman McVicker (Mudgee), Geoff Hassall (Wallsend area), Gwenda and Harold Welsh (Central Coast) and Rowena Ward (Wollongong).

Nancy MacAlpine had donated an etching (*Wardell Rides*) as first prize in the raffle won by Ted Green; second prize (Hummel figurine of a little boy donated by Sue Miller) went to Gwenda Welsh; third prize (3 *Marrickville Potteries*) to Dot Sullivan; supplementary prize (copy of *Heritage 1*) to Margaret Sinclair. June Cameron won the lucky door prize (a Robert Hutchinson fruitcake and a MHS spoon).

Accompanying festivities were several scrapbooks of memorabilia, newsletter excerpts and newspaper cuttings whilst there was a digital photo slideshow of members, events and local icons produced by Lorraine with assistance from Scott, Richard and Ian Phillips.

The most curious artefact on display were two bottles of white wine described as an 'ancient Marrickville relic' and labelled Winged Victory Restoration under the auspices of MMBCC (Marrickville Municipal Bicentennial Community Committee; thanks to Chrys for this data). At over 20 years old, it's probably best left

under Megan Hicks's stairs for posterity! On a day where formalities were kept to a minimum and fellowship was foremost, Margaret Sinclair was fittingly given the honour of cutting the cake while a chorus of *Happy Birthday to Us* was sung (photo: Richard Blair).



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