

MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY INC.



DULWICH HILL ENMORE LEWISHAM
ST PETERS SYDENHAM TEMPE

MARRICKVILLE PETERSHAM STANMORE
& PARTS OF CAMPERDOWN & NEWTOWN

OUR NEXT MEETING

Allen Madden on the history and cultural aspects of the Aboriginal peoples in this area
Saturday 25 October 10.15 for 10.30 am
Herb Greedy Hall 79 Petersham Road Marrickville

In Dr Peter Orlovich's talk *A History of Place Names in New South Wales* at our April meeting, he alluded to the lack of Aboriginal place names in the Marrickville Local Government Area. There are probably fewer than five. **Allen Madden**, Cultural and Education Officer and Acting CEO of the Metropolitan Land Council, and a member of the Gadigal clan, will speak on the history and cultural aspects of the Aboriginal peoples in the Marrickville LGA and provide us with some names appropriate for future use. Allen's talk is particularly timely in view of the Place Names Project shortly to be undertaken by the Society.

GEOGRAPHICAL PLACE NAMES PROJECT

Rowena Ward and **Lorraine Beach** are working on the framework of a Place Names Project that intends to involve members who are interested in assisting. The project will involve researching, then collating and recording the form, spelling, meaning, origin and history of place names for the Register of Place Names for the Marrickville area. Liaising with Dr Peter Orlovich, Geographical Names Board of NSW, we aim to provide the 'missing' information for around 100 place names for Marrickville that are currently listed on the Register but not described.

A workshop is planned for March 2009 to brief those who are interested in knowing more or may wish to participate, and to establish the practicalities for the project. More information will be advised in future newsletters as the plan develops. For further information contact Lorraine (after hours) on 9550 6608 or email <lbeach@iprimus.com.au>.



Portion of proposed IKEA building in Tempe with its "marquee tower that visually dominates the site and diminishes the very landmark qualities of the clock tower that the developers claim to be protecting." Full report inside.

Newtown Festival 9 November

OUR NOVEMBER MEETING

Aboriginal Cultural Sydney Harbour Cruise
Saturday 22 November 12.40 for 1 pm sharp

Departs from Eastern Pontoon, Circular Quay (between ferry wharves and Opera House). Length of cruise 1 hour 45 minutes. Cost: \$55 adults, \$45 concessions (incl. Seniors and children; prepayment preferred by cheque or credit card). Bookings essential as numbers limited: Ring Rob Roberts 9699 3491.

Please Note: Book early as this is not a MHS charter & bookings are direct with Tribal Warrior. Advise if cancelling. Photo from TWA website. These cruises are held daily, Tuesday-Saturday at same time.



The Tribal Warrior Association, founded in 1988, operates Sydney's only Aboriginal Cultural Cruise in Sydney Harbour. This cruise offers a first contact journey of Aboriginal Australia with stories of the Sydney Harbour Tribes and their hunting and fishing techniques. Featured is a visit to Clark Island (off Darling Point) to see a traditional cultural performance; learn the Aboriginal names and meanings of significant Sydney landmarks; chance to meet and talk with the Aboriginal crew. Includes light refreshments. For further information see <www.tribalwarrior.org>.

NEW ARCHIVIST AT MARRICKVILLE

We welcome **Ms Gita Sankaran** who recently commenced as archivist at Marrickville Council's Archival Reference Centre. Gita has broad experience as a journalist and obtained her archival qualifications under Dr Peter Orlovich at UNSW. The ARC continues to be open on Tuesdays 10-1 and 2-4 or by appointment at other times on 9335 2185 or by email on <arc@marrickville.nsw.gov.au> .

OUR AUGUST MEETING

Heraldry in Australia with Stephen Szabo

At our meeting on 23 August, our speaker, **Stephen Szabo**, an expert on heraldry, began by describing the evolution of a family's Coat of Arms from their practical use in medieval times to the present day when heraldry is often not about who people are but about snobbery and 'who they *think* they are'. In 12th century Europe, as metal helmets increasingly covered the knights' faces on the battlefield or in jousting, designs painted on shields or embroidered on tunics were the practical way of showing who was who. Increasing prosperity meant people just wanted to 'show off their ancestry'. Shields were embellished with crests, mottos and supporters on either side, sinister, being the left side and dexter, the right side.

The shield could be further divided into quarters showing symbols related to the person, the lands they owned and the office they aspired to. When jousting became a popular sport, the heralds who announced the joust had the job of recognizing the coats of arms on a knight's shield so their names could be announced. Heraldry made excellent practical sense.

Hundreds of years later, the Gothic Revival of the late 18th and 19th centuries brought a love of everything medieval. Heraldry became fashionable again. Coats of arms were carved on stone walls and gateposts of newly-built mansions, painted on the doors of carriages, etched in stained glass windows, stamped on swords, firearms and the family silver, and profusely used for bookplates. They decorated tombstones and family vaults. The monuments in Camperdown and St Peters cemeteries have many admirable examples. The Great Hall and the stone buildings around the main quadrangle at Sydney University are carved with numerous different crests and heraldic designs.

The seals of the colonial governors – King, Bligh, Macquarie, Gipps and Bourke – were all stamped on their silverware. In 1836 the Anglican Diocese of Australia received an official Coat of Arms. Suddenly everybody who was anybody wanted one. In 1837 Sydney merchant Robert Campbell requested his. In 1838 Robert Scott, uncle of David Scott Mitchell of Mitchell Library fame, received his. A century later in 1938, Marrickville Council was granted its coats of arms. MHS members with their own coats of arms are Ken Swinburne*, who uses his for his bookplates and in a splendid stained glass window, and Lu Bell whose coat of arms shows (would you believe) three bells!



KENNETH JAMES SWINBURNE

A word of warning: Beware of businesses selling crests and shields in shopping malls. They merely look up a list of family names and show customers a coat of arms that may be appropriate to them. However, it may not. More research in family history is needed before a person can actually prove his entitlement to any particular coat of arms. But on the other hand and like the medieval jousting, you might just as easily invent your very own – Coat of Arms.

Geoff Ostling

* spelling correct in both cases

HERITAGE WATCH: IKEA AT TEMPE

A developer has started the planning approvals processes for a huge new redevelopment around the former Penfolds building on the Princes Highway, Tempe. They have acquired the land between Smith Street and Bellevue Street, including the former Marrickville Council landfill site (Tempe Tip), the former Ateco site (former Penfolds wine storage), the Pretty Girl building (former Westpac Stores) and the Kennards Self Storage development. The proposal seeks to transform the site to accommodate a new flagship IKEA warehouse and showroom together with its regional office headquarters.

The proposed development would include:

- A new IKEA showroom and warehouse totalling approximately 33,000m² and car parking for approximately 1,650 car spaces.
- New Australian headquarters for IKEA, adaptively reusing the historically significant portion of the Ateco building, occupying approximately 3,000m² of commercial office floor space over two levels.
- A future industrial (or other complementary use) reuse of the Pretty Girl building, totalling approximately 19,000m².
- Relocation and expansion of the Kennards Self Storage development towards the southern part of the site, totalling approximately 18,000m².
- Creation of new open spaces off Princes Highway, totalling 6,200m².

Historically *The Poffle* was built on the site for Leslie Duguid in 1836-37 as a residence; it later became a school named *Rugby*, then an insane asylum named *Bayview House*. Acquired by WD & HO Wills in the 1940s, it was renamed *Caxton House* until acquisition by Penfolds and Drug Houses of Australia. Most of the site is listed as a locally significant heritage item under the Marrickville LEP.

On the preliminary information that is available, the Society is concerned about several aspects of the proposed development. The proposal to adaptively reuse the main Penfolds building for offices is to be applauded, however the demolition of the former administration building should be more carefully considered. While the new development retains the landmark tower, it also proposes an IKEA marquee tower that visually dominates the site and diminishes the very landmark qualities of the clock tower that the developers claim to be protecting. The Society also believes that the developers should reinstate the original sills and metal spandrel panels on the Princes Highway façade of the former Penfolds building that the former owner demolished about seven years ago. These were an important unifying feature of the building's façade that enclosed the windows in a frame clear of the edges of the building and the ground. The sill and panels were demolished to extend the windows to the ground in a misguided attempt to increase the 'visibility' of the building.

As the project has a total value of \$120 million, it appears to have been accepted by the State Government as a Major Project, and the application will therefore be determined by the Minister of Planning (with advice from her department), rather than by Marrickville Council. Council is understandably concerned that this will reduce local input into the assessment of the project, and the Society will be making a submission when the development is formally submitted to the Department of Planning.

Scott MacArthur

OUR LAST MEETING Cooks River Three Bridges Walk with Joy Berville

On Saturday 27 September RiverLife guide **Joy Berville** led a group from Canterbury Station to the site of the old Sugar Works built by Scottish stonemasons. This handsomely-restored mill, built (1840-42) for the Australian Sugar Company (1841-54) was used in the late 1880s for heavy engineering; around 1900 it became Denham Bros Bacon Factory, and in 1908 JC Hutton Ham & Bacon Smallgoods took over until 1982. It was acquired by Nick Scali Furniture before apartments were built on the remnant infrastructure. It is good to see our historical sites preserved.

Crossing over Cooks River by a timber bridge, which replaced the old concrete bridge, to Sutton Reserve where there once were many farms and a tannery. Cooks River was not deep but looked good with a few ducks swimming around. Walking up Karool Avenue we learnt about the quarry where quality stone was taken for many Sydney buildings. Over our second bridge at Cup & Saucer Creek, we saw some old homes, including the Convent of the St Joseph Nuns and where Mary MacKillop stayed on occasions. On to Mary MacKillop Reserve (so renamed from Simpson Reserve in 1995 when she was beatified by Pope John Paul II) and then over our final bridge along Canterbury Road named after Cornelius Prout, who had a punt on the river in 1833. He borrowed money in 1839-40 to build a bridge using convict labour, and charged a toll. Many thanks Joy for an interesting and enjoyable walk.

Hilary Dwyer

Ron Ringer's *The Brickmasters 1788-2008* (Dry Press Publishing) was launched at the Museum of Sydney on Tuesday 23 September by Heritage Architect, Howard Tanner. Ostensibly the story of Austral Bricks, it comprehensively covers the history of brickmaking in Sydney and may well be the definitive work. Lavishly produced with over 450 illustrations etc, it comes in a slipcase and retails for \$75. This cartoon appears on page 158.



From the Pug mill. – Old lady (to men struggling to move large piece of stone in a quarry): “My good men, why don't you try blasting it?” Workman: “Well, mum, me and my mate's used every blinking word we knows, but it ain't moved yet.”

(Source: The Clay Products Journal of Australia, April 1935, p. 29)

Wolli Creek Walk with Peter Stevens

Dear Peter
President, Wolli Creek Preservation Society

As you know, registering for \$8 to do this walk on Saturday 27 September made me a WCPS member for a year in which time further walks will be free. My fellow walkers and I found the walk quite easy and casually paced and I was surprised to find this is the only significant bushland belt in Sydney east of Parramatta and between the Harbour and the Parramatta and Georges Rivers.

Your commentary was most informative, not only in relation to the local history, but also regarding the conservation battles and the range of flora abounding in the valley. Apart from hearing of the three main eucalypts of the Wolli Valley – Blackbutt, Bangalay and Sydney Peppermint, you showed how to differentiate between good and bad Wandering Jews ('white is wicked, blue is beautiful'); and sundry varieties of plants, such as Pittosporum, Bleeding Hearts and Native Fuchsia. I previously knew nothing about recumbent cross-bedding (but don't ask me now to explain!) or why sewer vents periodically pop; I marvelled at Wave Rock and that rock uncannily resembling the map of Australia (sans Tassie). To make more sense of all this I would certainly urge all able bodied, nature-loving, human bipeds to sign on for a guided WCPS walk. Of course, I realise anyone can do the self-guided walk at any time for free!

And those two mini-climbs, one up the fabulously-named Nannygoat Hill, with its splendid vista, and site of the successful 1967 resident action some years before the more famous Battlers for Kelly's Bush; the other up Wolli Bluff for another fine panorama. Having last done the walk a couple of years ago, your Society has done extensive work in the valley to upgrade the track, remove dumped rubbish and ubiquitous weeds like lantana and Canadian fleabane, and regenerate suitable plant species, as well as negotiate with authorities and developers to ensure the beauty of the valley is not corroded. I also liked the Two Valley Trail signage to keep walkers on track, as it were.

As a bonus you enabled us to have tea with Judy Finlason and hear her saga of William Jackson and his charming stone cottages of Jackson's Place (subject of a book written by her in 1999); along with the video of the Nannygoat Hill battle from *This Day Tonight* with reporter Frank Bennett. And who would have thought an annual kayak event is held on Wolli Creek? You even arranged for a sighting of a Blue-tongued Lizard. I will endeavour to spread the word that any nature lover won't spend a better half-day in Sydney. Keep up the good work, Peter and do keep us posted about forthcoming guided walks.

Richard Blair

Congratulations to the **Riverworks 2008 Project** for winning the **Environmental Education Award** at the **Keep Australia Beautiful Sustainable Cities Awards** on 14 August. Coordinator Bronwyn Tuohy and Yolande Presland (Waste Education Officer, Canterbury City Council) accepted the award. Riverworks is an annual event held in Gough Whitlam Park, Earlwood celebrating Cooks River and the natural environment. The event has been resourced and sponsored by City of Canterbury Council since its inception with support from The Mudcrabs, a local community group actively cleaning up Cooks River.

CALENDAR OF MHS EVENTS

Saturday 25 October

Allen Madden on the history and cultural aspects of the Aboriginal peoples in this area

Details on front page

Saturday 22 November

Tribal Warrior Harbour Cruise

Details on front page

Sts Peter and Paul Church Cooks River 150th Anniversary & Book Launch

In October 1858 the Church of Sts Peter & Paul Cooks River opened its doors. It was the only Catholic church between St Benedict's at Broadway and St Francis Xavier's, Wollongong. So commenced a lively history which saw many expansions and contractions. The present church on Princes Highway (near Samuel Street) was opened in 1913. The school of Sts Peter and Paul commenced in 1858 and continued to offer a Catholic education for 130 years before its closure.

To mark this anniversary, a 130-page book *A History Sts Peter & Paul Cooks River 1858-2008* by Michael Smith & Mary Barthelemy will be launched at the church on Sunday 2 November at 2pm, following a celebratory mass. The book is \$20 (postage extra). Enquiries: ring Mary 9559 2409 or email on <maryangela@bigpond.com>.

Organised by TOSA (Theatre Organ Society of Australia), the **40th anniversary of the Wurlitzer organ** (previously in the Prince Edward Theatre) in Marrickville Town Hall will be celebrated on Sunday 26 October at 2pm, with well-known Sydney organist, David Parsons and young organist/pianist/vocalist Mathew Loeser. \$25, concession \$22, students \$10; children under 15 free with a paying adult.

Glebe Public School's 150th

Glebe Public School, Glebe Point Road celebrates its 150th birthday on Monday 3 November. Ex pupils and teachers wanting to attend the celebrations, ring the school on 9660 4549. If you attended the school or have memories to share, email MHS member, Lyn Collingwood as to when and what: <lyncol1@optusnet.com.au> - note the numeral one.

PIANO FOR SALE

Wertheim upright, steel frame. Exc. condition; valuation certificate \$1200. Best offer over \$900. Keith 9564 6948.

Perhaps it was Fathers Day which reduced the numbers at the **Marrickville Festival** on Sunday 7 September but the Society was there as usual and had a successful day. Thanks to **Ian, Richard, Scott, Sonia and Sue**; and special thanks to **Corinne O'Loughlin** for making the marmalade and **Diane McCarthy** for the jar labels.

Spring Trivia Answer held over to November

TREASURER Stuart 9560 8070
NEWSLETTER EDITOR Richard 9557 3823

THE REVELATION CEILING

The Newtown Mission (formerly the Newtown Methodist Church built in 1860) at 280a King Street (opp. the Dendy) "is passionately committed to social justice and serving the needs of the local community." It houses Kon Parris's stunning and newly-completed Revelation Ceiling, the largest religious artwork in Australia. Inspired by the Book of Revelations, it took seven years to complete and spans 300 square metres. The Mission is open for inspection Thursday-Friday 7-9pm, Saturday 12-4 & 7-10pm and Sunday 1-3pm.

Enquiries 9519 9000; <www.newtownmission.org.au>.



Revelation 21: 9-10 The new heaven and the new earth

Award to Silas Clifford-Smith

The Isabella Brierley Prize for History is a long established Sydney history prize awarded by the North Shore Historical Society for original, unpublished, scholarly work which relates to the history of Sydney's North Shore. The Society congratulates 2008 winner, MHS member **Silas Clifford-Smith**, for his completed manuscript on the life of artist Percy Lindsay.

Silas has since been advised that Melbourne Scholarly Publishing will publish the book later next year. The working title is *Percy Lindsay: Artist and Bohemian*.

SNOW IN ENMORE!

On 27 July 2008 some Lindfield residents claimed snow had fallen in their area, however the Australian Bureau of Meteorology said what actually fell was 'soft hail'; conditions were not quite cold enough to produce snow.

Snow was last recorded as falling in Sydney on Tuesday 28 June 1836. *The Sydney Herald* of 30 June 1836 reported under the heading *A Stranger*: "For the first time in the memory of the oldest inhabitants, snow fell in Sydney on the morning of Tuesday last. About seven o'clock in the morning a drifting fall covered the streets, nearly an inch in depth . . . Some of the 'old hands' express a hope that their old acquaintances, Messrs Frost and Snow do not intend emigrating to New South Wales."

Alexander Brodie Spark, owner of Tempe House and ardent diarist, recorded on 29 June 1836: "Great talk in Sydney about the fall of snow yesterday, which lay for some time whitening the ground, a circumstance that no one remembers having occurred in Sydney before" (G Abbott & G Little, eds. *The Respectable Sydney Merchant: AB Spark of Tempe* Sydney University Press 1976, p. 64).

One time resident of Enmore House, TA Browne, better known as Rolf Boldrewood, later recorded that in 1836 "a remarkable thing happened. There was a fall of snow; we made snowballs at Enmore, and enjoyed the usual school boy amusements therewith" (Freda MacDonnell *Before Kings Cross*, Nelson 1967, p. 56).

Richard Blair