

MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY INC.

DULWICH HILL ENMORE LEWISHAM
ST PETERS SYDENHAM TEMPE

MARRICKVILLE PETERSHAM STANMORE
& PARTS OF CAMPERDOWN & NEWTOWN



2010 is International Year of Biodiversity

OUR NEXT MEETING

Unlocking Parramatta's hidden history
Saturday 27 March 8.45 for 9 am sharp departure

Meet at 8.45 am opp. Petersham Town Hall. Expected return by about 4.30 pm. Pickups can be arranged with ample notice. Cost \$35 (covers coach, entries, tours and handout). BYO lunch and water. Bookings and prepayment essential. Ring Sue 9519 9980. Do advise if you have to cancel.

The Parramatta Female Factory Precinct predates other convict heritage sites such as Port Arthur, Cascades Female Factory and Fremantle Prison. The Precinct was settled as a government farm in 1788. Later Gov William Bligh and the Rev Samuel Marsden were among its early owners. Completed in 1821 the Female Factory complex extended over a four-acre site enclosed within a high perimeter wall and was the destination of all unassigned convict women in the NSW colony. It was the location of Australia's first women's penitentiary and lying-in hospital.



Female Factory Parramatta

(Detail from Augustus Earle painting c. 1826: courtesy NLA)

We will hear about the first orphanage (1841-86) for Catholic children, the Parramatta Lunatic Asylum and the reclaiming of the site in 1887 by the state government for the Industrial and Training School for Girls. This was later known as the Parramatta Girls Home (1887-1974) which for decades catered for girls charged by the court as 'neglected' or 'abandoned'.

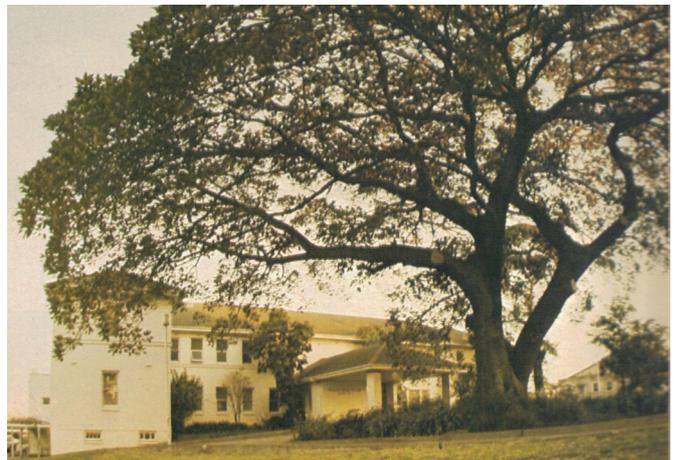
We will also visit Parramatta Park, Parramatta Heritage Centre (current exhibition *Treasured*), the rebuilt St Patrick's Cathedral, the old Kings School grounds and Glengarriff House (1907, designed by Walter Liberty Vernon). This was the official residence and garden of the Medical Superintendent of the then Parramatta Hospital for the Insane; it later became Wisteria House. Now a medical museum, founder/curator **Terry Smith** will show a collection of artefacts and memorabilia from the Cumberland Psychiatric Hospital and female factory including clay pipes, straightjackets and electric shock treatment apparatus.

Finally to the Catholic Cemetery where many early gravestones have Celtic crosses or unusual insignia. Our guide for the day is **Bonney Djuric** who has been at the forefront of efforts to raise the profile of the Female Factory Precinct Association since its formation in 2006 (see item on back page under 'In Brief').

IKEA SITE TEMPE UPDATE

Whilst still NSW Planning Minister, Kristina Keneally sent a proposal for the new IKEA development in Tempe to the PAC (Planning Assessment Commission) 'because it was located in my electorate and the proponent had made a declarable political donation'. On 10 May 2009 Ms Keneally announced approval of a new IKEA showroom and warehouse on the former Penfolds site. She proudly announced that 'the heritage-listed ATECO building and clock tower will be retained as IKEA's headquarters'; also that 'the grand Moreton Bay fig tree will be transplanted and maintained on the site along with 270 additional trees to be planted during construction.'

Well, the Moreton Bay fig (age uncertain) was removed last month so we await to see where (and if) it will re-emerge! Unfortunately the former administrative headquarters of Penfolds was not spared and was demolished in early February. This was the last remaining building from the *Bayview* Estate which had operated as an asylum from the 1860s till the 1940s. It is not clear when this remnant asylum building dates from, but quite likely the period 1890-1910. *Bayview* was originally *The Poffle*, an early estate from 1836-37 built by Lesslie Duguid. *The Poffle* was demolished by Penfolds along with most of the remaining *Bayview* buildings in the early 1950s.



*Front of Penfolds administrative headquarters in 1975 overshadowed by the resplendent Moreton Bay fig (from Oswald L Ziegler *The Penfold Story* 1975 p. 66)*

After a concerted campaign by the **Friends of the Australian Pioneer Village Society** to save the APV (visited by MHS in July 2008) at Wilberforce, Hawkesbury City Council decided on 2 February that the Friends will be granted a five year lease for The Village with two 5-year options and will receive \$100,000 from Council for repairs plus \$10,000 per year for five years. To help with restoration or for info, email Lesley on chimneycottage@yahoo.com.au.

OUR LAST MEETING

Demolished houses of the Parramatta River with Angela Phippen

Never mind that catchy Peter Allen song *Everything old is new again*, because as the title of our talk on Saturday 27 February suggests, most of the grand nineteenth century houses in the Ryde area along Parramatta River were demolished – well, certainly six magnificent houses were, as presented by Ryde Library's Local Studies and Family Historian and long time MHS stalwart, **Angela Phippen**.

Angela's illustrated tour of these six houses introduced us to notable families of the district including the Lackersteens (*Glendower*), a name which once graced labels of large tins of jam. For 70 years the family occupied this grand house until the two remaining unmarried Lackersteens died in the early 1960s; soon after, the long neglected house was replaced by a council depot. Isaac Shepherd built *Helenie* (c. 1840) and was so prominent he was dubbed "Mr Ryde", but the house was remembered more because Sir Henry Parkes rented it for a few years in the 1850s.

The stone mansion of *Ermington Park* dated from 1827. Its grandeur was expressed by the 36 soup plates among its inventory of crockery – a sure sign of large social gatherings; and by one time owner John Linsley, (mayor of Ryde, 1877-80) who boasted that 'the camellias grew as high as the balconies'. Whilst there was no sign of Anne (of Cleves), we saw a photo of the owner of *Cleves* (c. 1840s), Charles Blaxland, who along with his wife Elizabeth, were buried in St Anne's Cemetery, Ryde. When *Lauriston* was about to be demolished in 1959, the local paper carried the heading *Stately era ends with demolition*. Ironically surviving family members welcomed the demolition saying they preferred to remember the house as it had been.

The coda to Angela's talk was along the lines of, OK, 'progress' in the guise of industrialisation by investors and developers, often aided and abetted by local and state governments, brought about the destruction of these six splendid edifices to become factories, shipyards, service stations, council depots and housing. But is it progress if you come full circle such that these buildings themselves fall victim in time to modern demands for riverside housing estates?

Alas, a plaque now marks the site of *Ermington Park* and Angela pointed out the irony whereby the house that replaced the mansion has since fallen victim to the demolisher's ball. Can we take heart from the case of *Lunnhilda*, renamed *Dudhope* (hardly an optimistic choice of name) and later called *Putney Park House*? In the mid 1920s Ryde Council transformed this property into pleasure grounds with the house adapted as refreshment rooms. Then war came, the grounds ceased to provide pleasure and by 1943 the house was gone. To its credit Council transformed the site into Putney Park and to this day the foundations of the mansion are still very much in evidence.

Every LGA has its long lost mansions and we thank Angela for taking us on her reflective journey along the Parramatta River. A memorable talk to start the year, and hopefully we can entice Angela back for an encore. We also thank Marrickville Council for installing the handy pull-down screen in Herb Greedy Hall.

(Some of) What Macquarie did for Sydney

From **Frances Pollon & Philip Geeves** *A romance with retailing: an early history before 1900 and progress to 1913* Retail Traders' Association of New South Wales 1983:

"**Lachlan Macquarie**, the military governor who replaced Bligh, began the task of introducing order into colonial affairs. First, he gave orders for improving the appearance of Sydney. The main thoroughfare was named George Street in honour of King George III, while other streets were given the names of early governors – Phillip, Hunter, King and Bligh. Nor were British statesmen forgotten: as a result, Sydney still has streets named for William Pitt, Viscount Castlereagh, Earl Bathurst and Lord Liverpool. The seedy old streets in and behind the barrack area were named for royal dukes – York, Clarence, Kent and Sussex."

"Macquarie even imported silver Spanish dollars – 'pieces of eight' – to provide colonists with a regular currency and, by punching the centre from each dollar, created two silver coins unique to New South Wales, the holey dollar and dump. In 1817, Macquarie established Australia's first bank, the Bank of New South Wales, thus further improving the commercial climate. It should be mentioned that Lachlan Macquarie was the first governor to adopt the name Australia for this continent of ours." (Note: The Bank of New South Wales became Westpac in 1982. Thanks to **Susan Pinson** for providing the above excerpt).

Of course, Sydney City's grandest thoroughfare was, and remains, Macquarie Street: "When Governor Lachlan Macquarie arrived in Sydney the rough track hacked out of the bush along the eastern ridge of Sydney Cove between Hyde Park and Bent Street had no name. He named the street after himself, proclaiming it on October 6, 1810. Macquarie Street was extended to Bennelong Point (then Fort Macquarie) in the 1840s" (**Keith & Irene Smith**: *Smith's Guide: Sydney City* 1988 pp. 98-9).

Malcolm Ellis points out Macquarie named Elizabeth Street for his wife, Harrington Street after the Governor's former military commander, Argyle Street for his native county, Bent Street for the Judge-Advocate, and Bridge, Park, Market and Spring Streets to mark the sites of civic utilities; also Gloucester and Cumberland Streets after two other royal dukes (Ellis's *Lachlan Macquarie: His Life, Adventures and Times* 1947 p. 226).

Richard Blair

Marrickville Council is preparing its **Community Strategic Plan** for the next decade. It will identify community priorities and aspirations including strategies to achieve identified goals; / address social, environmental, economic and civic leadership issues; / be based on the social justice principles of equity, access, participation and rights; / and have links to the State Plan and other relevant state and regional plans.

Members **Michele Carton** and **Geoff Windon** noted their concerns (eg, street sweeping, graffiti, heritage issues) and suggest other members could contribute. For example, for the question, 'What actions do you think Council should be focussing on?' Michele said: 'Council needs to preserve the unique heritage of this LGA. Houses and shops saved from demolition for 100 years need to be preserved, adapted and reused instead of allowing short term interests to prevail.'

Go to <http://www.myplace2021.com.au/> to give your input or ring council on 9335 2000.

HERITAGE WATCH

The Majestic Theatre Petersham

Council has received an application for the retention and adaptive reuse of the **Majestic Theatre, 49-59 New Canterbury Road Petersham**. The proposal is for ground and mezzanine floor retail use, three levels containing 27 one and two bedroom apartments and 18 basement carparking spaces.

A listed heritage item in Marrickville LEP 2001, the Majestic Theatre was built in 1921, to a design by Karberry & Chard (both renowned for cinema design). In 1946 it was sold to Greater Union theatre chain and renamed the Odeon Theatre. In 1953, internal modifications were carried out to the design of architect Guy Crick, a noted cinema specialist of the interwar period, to refurbish it to contemporary cinema style. These changes resulted in major alteration of the foyers, stairs and balcony; enlargement of the mezzanine; and removal or boarding up of windows on the main street façade, including three stained glass windows.



In 1979, to accommodate its use as the Majestic Roller Skating Rink, further alterations included the removal of the original sloping theatre floor and replacement with a concrete slab, destruction of the dress circle seating and replacement of timber windows and doors with aluminium. The building has been vacant for some years, and appears to be in poor repair. A number of developments have been approved by Council in recent times but none has proceeded.

The Majestic is a highly visible building, noted in the 1984 Heritage Study as having "one of the tallest parapet façades in the surrounding retail precinct" and possessing a distinctive tiled awning, projecting detailing, decorative pilasters and circular windows. By virtue of almost 90 years of public use as a picture theatre and then a roller skating rink, the building is well known and has a firm place in local affections.

This proposal appears to respond sympathetically to the building. Development is to be contained within the existing building envelope, retaining its roof profile and perimeter walls. The roof is to be replaced in matching corrugated sheeting with roof trusses retained and exposed internally within apartments.

The design endeavours to interpret historic internal volumes with two voids open to natural light and air and substantially retaining the ceilings above those spaces. It appears that the prominent New Canterbury Road façade and ground floor entry foyer are to have minimal modification, with reuse of previous

windows and reinstatement of main timber doors and wall tiles at street level. The foyers, in the main entry and mezzanine, are proposed for reuse as cafés. Importantly, public access to ground floor areas will be maintained due to proposed retail uses.

The proposal represents an opportunity for retention and sympathetic alteration of a significant heritage building, enabling an economically viable future to ensure its ongoing conservation.

Lorraine Beach

SYDNEY BUS MUSEUM ON THE MOVE & DA FOR TEMPE BUS/TRAM DEPOT

The **Tempe Tram Depot** opened in 1912 housing up to 100 trams. The Sydney Bus Museum website describes the building as a 'fine example of Edwardian industrial architecture'. It has a 'stepped parapet around a central raised gable parapet' (Marrickville Heritage Study 1984). The tram services operating from Tempe were known as the Green Lines as destination signs were green. The Tempe Depot closed in 1954; the Green Lines were discontinued in 1957. The front of the site became a bus depot until its closure in 1992, since when it has been the 422 bus terminus.

The tram depot became derelict until in 1986 the State Government granted the Historic Commercial Vehicle Association use of the building as a working museum. For many years the **Bus and Truck Museum**, the name became the **Sydney Bus Museum**. It has been a vibrant and significant presence in the LGA. MHS has visited the site and has at times had use of its double decker buses. Governments change as do their outlook, so intermittently the museum and the comprehensive range of buses and trucks have been under threat of relocation. Finally the museum closed last year and will soon be relocated to the old tramsheds adjacent to the new Leichhardt bus depot. The STA is renovating the this building to suit SBM needs.

Meanwhile a DA has recently been lodged to carry out works at the **bus depot**. Part of this involves restoring the tramshed building, providing a bus maintenance area in the northern area of the tramshed building, providing a bus wash and staff car parking area, and installing rainwater tanks. It is imperative that all heritage components are preserved both in the bus depot and the old tramshed. The matter will be determined by a Joint Regional Planning Panel (JRPP) consisting of state government appointed experts and local government representatives. A JRPP is described as 'independent', whatever that means.

The proposal ensures the **Tempe Depot War Memorial** remains on this site, which it **must** given it was built from funds paid by residents and local tramway employees. Like the museum, this memorial has also been at regular risk of removal. The last such occasion was in late 2002, but fate intervened in the form of wild storms on 8 January 2003 when the soldier was knocked off its pedestal by a falling wattle. It was skillfully restored and ceremoniously reinstated. Local campaigner, the late Lori Short was instrumental in reinstating an Anzac Day Service at the site.

The renovated Tempe Bus Depot will become a hub for the prepaid Route 30 Metrobus starting in late March: Sydenham Station to Spit Junction via Enmore Road, Newtown, Sydney Uni, Railway Square, Town Hall, Wynyard, Neutral Bay and Cremorne.

Richard Blair

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Saturday 27 March

Unlocking Parramatta's hidden history

Details on front page

Saturday 24 April

Grace Karskens *What sort of colony?*

City of Sydney Historical Association

Saturday 13 March 2 pm

Sydney Mechanics School of Arts 280 Pitt St Sydney

Reading photographs of Sydney – every picture tells a story with Robert Hutchinson

Theatre Organ Society of Australia has advised the 50th anniversary celebration organ concert previously planned for Marrickville Town Hall on Saturday 13 March has been relocated to the Orion Centre 155 Beamish Street Campsie at 2 pm. A second concert will be held at the Orion Centre at 2 pm on Sunday 14 March. Bookings Kath 9629 2257.

Petersham Promenade with Geoff Ostling

Sunday 11 April 1.15 for 1.30 pm start from Petersham Town Hall. Cost \$30 (incl. afternoon tea). Bookings 9363 2401 (weekdays); enquiries Ron 0418 112 018. National Trust fundraiser; a non MHS event.

St Peters Cooks River History Group

Tempe Walk from Tempe Station, Griffith St Saturday 10 April 2 pm

Learn about the people, sites and events which shaped this suburb.

Tour St Peters Church Graveyard

187 Princes Highway St Peters

Saturday 17 April 2 pm

Learn about the people from all levels of society who contributed to the development of Sydney and are buried in this historic graveyard. Parking in grounds.

Part of National Trust Heritage Festival. Both events free, but bookings essential 9558 7504.

The National Trust Heritage Festival is 9-24 April. See NT booklet for statewide events. MHS members are invited to attend the Marrickville Medal ceremony on **Wed 14 April from 6 pm at Petersham Town Hall.**



AUTUMN TRIVIA QUESTION

Identify and locate me in Marrickville LGA. Ring Richard on 9557 3823 or email address below.

PRESIDENT Richard 9557 3823
TREASURER Diane 9588 4930
NEWSLETTER Richard 9557 3823

IN BRIEF

MHS congratulates **Wolli Creek Preservation Society** for obtaining over \$95,000 in four separate grants to support their work. A fantastic achievement! Check WCPS website for details <www.wollicreek.org.au>.

St Luke's Anglican Church Stanmore Road Enmore is seeking tax deductible donations towards its organ fund to restore its heritage-listed 1883 pipe organ (Wordsworth & Maskell, Leeds). It is unique in Australia with allegedly over 600 pipes!

Bonney Djuric (host of our forthcoming Parramatta day: see front page) invites members to petition Tania Gadiel (NSW Member for Parramatta, 90 George Street, Parramatta 2150) to have the **Parramatta Female Factory Precinct** listed as a site of national significance. See <www.parragirls.org.au>.

In the wake of the May 2006 fire, **St Barnabas Anglican Church Broadway** has recently been demolished to make way for the replacement church due for completion late next year. It will have 'a commemorative wall with remnants from the old building including plaques and stone memorials' (*IWCourier* 25/2/10).

To become a volunteer tour guide with **RiverLife Interpretive Tours**, contact David on 9748 9963 or at <david.kuhn@strathfield.nsw.gov.au>. Cooks River tour details in future newsletters.

Volunteers Sought for Music Library

Edited from a recent letter to Richard from MHS member **Winsome Evans**: "In November 2008 Fisher Library closed down the Music Dept Library in the Seymour Centre as part of their policy to get rid of branch libraries across Sydney University. Many letters were written to the Vice Chancellor explaining that the library, started in 1949, contained mainly items donated by staff, former students and friends, however to no avail. Since then I have spent about 600-700 hours renumbering what was left behind and several collections since donated. With a band of loyal, hopeful students (dismayed by the closure and loss of librarian) all the current holdings have been entered into a database for potential use by borrowers when and if the library space is reopened."

"We are now ready to open the space for student/staff/alumni use. A librarian volunteer came forward under the Conservatorium's Volunteer program, however she changed her mind and was unable to suggest anyone else to replace her. I thought of Marrickville Heritage Society as a possible avenue of appeal as you have many members who are retired and/or engaged in community volunteer work; otherwise members may have friends so inclined."

"Volunteers need not have library qualifications. They can be any intelligent, cheerfully able person, who might welcome the quiet company of musicians, music scholars, music lovers etc. Even just a few hours a week would be appreciated. They can ring me in working hours on 9351 3616."

Note: Associate Professor Winsome Evans founded the Renaissance Players in 1966 and continues as its director. A skilled harpsichordist, she plays over 30 other instruments. Winsome received an Order of Australia in 1985 for her services to music. She continues to teach composition, performance and musicology in the Arts Music Unit.