

THE PADDINGTON SOCIETY • YOUR RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

NEWS BULLETIN

PO Box 99 PADDINGTON NSW 2021 Phone 9360 6159 May 2008

<http://www.paddingtonociety.org.au>; email: heritage@paddingtonociety.org.au

Welcome to new members, Sheila and Caroline Adam, Claude Bereny and Sue Ritchie, Penny Johnstone, David Whitford and Caroline Verge.

We have a very interesting family friendly event coming up on Saturday 31st May at 2.00pm.

Restoration Artisan Series No 1

Australiana Décor from Victorian to Federation



Find out about your house with

Paul Storm, collector, explorer of social history and practising glass etcher and Michael McCowage, professional restoration sleuth, consultant and works director/participant all rolled into one. An interactive talk with examples of glass etching, rubbings, plaster cornices, and other decorative objects.

St Georges Church Hall, Five Ways, 245 Glenmore Road, Paddington.

Prices: Members - \$10 family, \$7 single; Non members - \$12 family, \$8 single; concession \$5each; Enquiries ph 9361 0864 or 9360 6159 or email: heritage@paddingtonociety.org.au. Bookings are not essential but would help with catering the afternoon tea.

After that, it is our *Mystery Coffee Shop Walk* on Sunday, 29th June. Meet at the rear of Juniper Hall (Underwood Street entrance) at 10.00 am. A small charge of \$8 single, \$15 couple and \$18 for parents

and children, will include the walk and refreshments of coffee, tea or juice (and babyccino) with banana bread, friand or slice at the coffee shop. Bookings are not essential but would help with organizing the walk. Contact as above. If you cannot fit in the walk, a call to 0409 361 378 at about 10.30 am on the day will give you information of where to meet for coffee. *Coming Up* - film in July, Annual Dinner in August, History Week in September and more. Watch our web page and see the detailed 2008 Events Calendar in this Bulletin.

President's Report

Top of mind at the moment is the extent to which the State Government's proposed planning "reforms" will impact on heritage conservation areas such as Paddington. Unless more responsibility can be clawed back into councils' hands it will be disastrous, and not only because of the destruction of heritage, which barely rates a mention, but our amenity as well. We still don't know exactly what the code or template for Victorian terrace houses will be.

We do know the intention is to extend the role of private certifiers rather than allow councils to take control of approved development applications during the building process. And if the certifier deems non-compliance of a DA *minor* and unlikely to cause *any substantial net adverse impact* on the neighbours, the certifier can certify it as complying – working in the interest of the owner who is paying him/her; this is extremely worrying as neighbours will have no notification nor say on what could have a detrimental impact on their amenity, for example loss of sunlight and overlooking.

While some private certifiers have an understanding and appreciation of heritage, conservation and the Development Control Plan, there is a growing number of number of cases of non-compliance with approved plans – original Victorian iron lace on a balcony replaced with tubular steel; a site concreted boundary-to-boundary ignoring the need for soft soil planting for on-site drainage and landscaping; not to mention the destruction of the heritage wall dating back to the early 1800s on the northern side of the PCYC, it is to be reinstated. It is the erosion of responsibility of caring for heritage conservation areas.

Traffic speeds have been exceeding the Paddington 40kph limit, which was implemented because of our narrow streets and the high level of pedestrian use in the area. The RTA has recommended that extra "40" signs be painted on the road surface accompanied by the necessary speed limit signs in Cascade, Hargrave, MacDonald Streets and Neild Ave / Brown Street and then monitored for effectiveness. If reduction in speed is not achieved traffic calming devices will be installed.

Paddington DCP (Wollahra Council) The Draft Paddington Heritage Conservation Area Development Control Plan will soon go on public exhibition with the revised contentious issues of excavation and restriction of internal changes. The Society supports the Draft DCP and has been actively involved in the lengthy review process. Because many of our terraces share footings and the walls are often interconnected and interdependent, we still have reservations about excavating below the main building; there is a trail of evidence showing that excavation has caused significant damage to the original fabric of neighbouring properties.

White City A development application for demolition of existing buildings and construction of a tennis and recreation facility has just been lodged with Woollahra Council. If the DA does not comply with the White City Development Control Plan we will certainly be submitting an objection - closing date 14th June. Go to www.woollahra.nsw.gov.au, bottom of the home page, click on White City – it's all there.

Annual General Meeting It was decided at the February committee meeting that the formal event of the year, the Annual General Meeting 2007/2008, would be better convened before the Christmas holiday season. As the financial year for the Society ends in August, November seemed a good month to tidy up the year and be ready for the next season in February.

Robyn Attuell
President

Paddington Community Garden

Planning of the community garden at Trumper Park is well under way. The steering group has formed an incorporated association, Community Garden Inc., with an interim committee consisting of Rob Joyner (President), Lesley Scott (Vice-President), Bettina Boss (Treasurer) and Michael Ryan (Secretary). Woollahra Council is currently having the soil of the site tested, prior to fencing and other work being carried out. Further information on the project can be found on the following website: http://www.woollahra.nsw.gov.au/services/parks/community_gardens

Bettina Boss

Solar panels in Paddington*

Woollahra Council has requested a report that is to consider easing controls over the installation of roof-top solar panels. This is still in preparation, but will be presented to the Council, soon. The Society is opposed to this approach and has prepared a submission setting out why this is not a good idea.

Basically, the Society sees the cluttering of roofs with solar panels will gradually ruin Paddington's roof-scape and degrade heritage values. The submission goes on to argue that there are better and cheaper alternatives available to individuals and the Council to achieving greenhouse gas emission reductions.

If you wish to read the submission and join the debate, please visit the Society's web page.

Adrian Boss

“The Unnamed Precinct”

The 5-way intersection at Oxford St, South Dowling St and Barcom Ave is often overlooked as the centre of an area and community in its own right, as it marks the intersection of different councils, police commands, suburbs, post codes, chambers of commerce etc. The local community is working together and has formed a project to address getting some focus on this area, from Taylor Square to COFA and its surrounds. The area is being referred to as the “The Unnamed Precinct”. If you have a suggestion for a name for this intersection/precinct, you can let Sue Ritchie know (0407 227768 or bereny@bigpond.net.au) or ask Leone or Will, who are part of the project team, to pass it on.

Sue Ritchie

Parking South Dowling Street

When the clearway was lifted in South Dowling Street, there was free parking for 24 hours, seven days a week. It was found that cars were being parked for extended periods even days. In our September Bulletin it was reported that the Paddington Darlinghurst resident group had asked that the Council (City of Sydney) negotiate with the RTA to provide parking restrictions with and exemption for residents with permits for LATM 15. All residents in the area were invited by the Council to respond to a set of options. The result is 1P 8am – 2am generally and ½ P 8am – 6pm Monday to Saturday in front of shops. There was also provision made for handicapped parking.

The result brings South Dowling Street into line with the rest of LATM 15

The RTA confirmed on 2 May 2008 that there have been reports of pedestrian accidents at the intersection of South Dowling and Napier Street since the RTA removed the clearway restrictions the RTA does not support traffic lights at this location.

Will Mrongovius

Titbits

In February in the *Know Your Own Pub* series we were hosted by owner Dean Haritos, and David Haynes manager, Light Brigade Hotel. The upstairs cocktail bar and restaurant of this *Between the Wars* or *Art Deco* designed Paddington landmark, have been newly restored faithfully to the style in mirrors, chrome, black glass and red soft furnishings, with the ceilings kept in the form of the original rooms. It was stylish and comfortable. Dean shared his research on the history of the hotel. Later some of us tried the menu of the new chef and were delighted.

It was a great night at the Charles Hewitt Gallery for the Marina Finlay *Images of the Eastern Suburbs – oil on canvas & works on paper* exhibition. We enjoyed the art and Marina talked to the group and mingled with the guests which made it a special evening. The gallery extends to a wonderfully dramatic space upstairs. Charles and his team made our group welcome and there was conviviality to the evening. Once again, some of us were too lazy to go home to cook and were hosted by Claude Bereny and Sue Ritchie at the Beauchamp Hotel.

Our community activities so far this year have included the *Clean Up Australia* Sunday in February and another successful and neighbourly, Secondhand Sunday WMC Zone 1 on 30 March. Zone 2 will have its Secondhand Sunday on 20th July instead of October as in previous years.

The Power of Protest. We were premature in scheduling the reenactment of the Jersey Road march. That occurred in 1969. The Society was started in 1964 under the threat of slum clearance and the community was again galvanized into action on 7th December 1967 when the Department of Roads and Traffic announced its first proposal to run a new major road through Paddington. The plan showed overpasses and destruction of houses, starting at Neild Avenue, New South Head, Rushcutters Bay crashing its way all the way up, through the old village, to Oxford Street. To quote information taken from the *Bondi Bligh Times*, 3 January 1968, 300 residents would have been affected. More information to follow in future bulletins and events flyers.

The Society has been asked to join in the reenactment of the Victor Trumper riot at the Sydney Cricket Ground on Sunday 2 November. Members are invited to take part and dress in period costume, circa 1890-1915. Enquiries: David Strange 0438 106 692

A Periodic Peek at Paddington's Past (8) by Ron Johnson The Rushcutter Bay Gentry Revealed (2)

As we saw last time, Governor Bourke handed out grants on either side of Glenmore Road to government officials in order to establish a superior residential area overlooking the harbour. We noted that Colonel Dumaresq, Robert Hoddle, William Lithgow and an untraceable George Savage never built houses in Paddington. Nor did Francis Nicholas Rossi who was granted 6 1/4 acres.

Rossi came to Sydney in 1825 as General Superintendent of Convicts, but became instead Chief of Police when the Military Mounted Police Force was established with two officers and thirteen troopers in that year. He lasted two years before being engineered out of his job by the last of the Rum Corps establishment. His problem was that, having been born in Corsica he was considered French and a foreigner despite the fact that he became an English citizen when Corsica was occupied by the English in 1802 during the Napoleonic Wars. By 1830 he was out of a job again. He took up farming at Rossville. He was forced to give up his lands because he was a foreigner. However Governor Gipps gave his son, Count Francis Robert Louis Rossi, the land at Captain's Flat. He never built in Paddington and his allotment was purchased by Hely in 1833.

Frederick Augustus Hely had 11 1/4 acres, which he amalgamated with Rossi's grant. He then commissioned John Verge to design a house for him in Paddington. The result was *Engehurst*, which still exists in Ormond Street. Hely had arrived in Sydney on the *Isabella* with his wife and two children. He became Superintendent of Convicts. He had held the rank of Captain in the army in England. He died of apoplexy in 1835 before *Engehurst* was finished. By 1835 he also held 4000 acres in the Gosford area. The township was called Point Frederick after him until Bourke ordered the town be called Gosford. Hely asked to be appointed magistrate at the new township and was refused. This meant he had to travel from Sydney to Gosford regularly to perform his government duties, which affected his health. John Verge designed his Gosford and Paddington houses. *Engehurst* lies at an angle to Ormond Street and can best be seen from Begg Lane. There are tunnels leading from under the house that are most likely an early form of air-conditioning. The house is now divided into units.

Heeley Street is named after him. (wrongly spelt!!)

Of the original grantees Gurner, Therry, Kinchella and Cape also built houses.

Roger Terry was Commissioner of the Court of Requests and built *Flinton* in 1834 on the site of what was the Royal Hospital for Women and is now a park and collection of apartments and townhouses. Several aspects of the development and particularly the inclusion of the park were influenced by the Paddington Society's representation during the development approval process. The original house, *Flinton* was for some of its life part of the hospital. It was demolished in 1920, having earlier been the residence of the Real Estate Agent Reginald Dean.

Judge John Kinchella built *The Terraces* on his 9 1/4 acre block. This is now incorporated in the Scottish Hospital complex.

John Gurner travelled to Australia with his wife and two children and with his boss Baron Field, the first judge of the newly formed Supreme Court on the convict ship *Lord Melville*. Gurner was the legal clerk to Field who ranked third in the colony after the Governor and his Deputy. He petitioned successfully for land at Cabramatta. He was promised some land in Hyde Park but got land in Paddington instead. He obtained lots 23, 24 and 25 between 1835 and 1837, a total of 15 acres for which he paid 282 pounds. Gurner built *Duxford House* in 1843, which would have been demolished around 1886 when the estate was divided.

W T Cape was a Trustee of the Australian Subscription Library from whom he received the title to his land. In 1843 he built *Elfred House*, which was also used as a school. The house was demolished in 1891 when Cape's estate was subdivided.

Gurner, Duxford, Flinton and Elfred are street names in Paddington.

Others bought into the salubrious rural district. Thomas Broughton built *Bradley Hall* on his 8 acre block from consolidating lots 21 and 22 (Lithgow's original grant) in 1845. He later bought 8 acres from Gurner's estate. The wall of his estate still stands in part between Stafford and Underwood Street. Thomas was born in Windsor, had been Mayor of Sydney and a member of the first Legislative Assembly.

Judge Sir Matthew Henry Stephen built *Glen Ayr* next to *The Terraces* in 1860. It was demolished in 1912 when the Bellevue Hill tramline opened up the area for development. Born in Hobart, Stephen became a barrister, judge, chief justice and MP. He died in 1920. *Deepdene House* was constructed for WG McCarthy who sold off the estate in stages 1877, 1882 and 1922 when the house was pulled down to make way for Bates Avenue and Picture House, now the supermarket at Fiveways.

John Elly Begg who moved into Paddington in 1862, when he rented and then bought the distillery in Glenmore Road. His son built *Olive Bank Villa* in 1869. It still stands and is used as a kindergarten in Heeley Street. Father and son bought *Juniper House* and *Engehurst*. They owned some 10 acres in Paddington

There is a Begg Lane, an Olive Street, a Stephen Street, and a Broughton Street.

The Rushcutter Bay Gentry owned 85% of the Paddington Municipality and its mansions and gardens were its main feature until the subdivisions of 1870 till 1900 that changed the character of the area. Paddington has only ever been a working class suburb for a short period of its long history.

More next time, and now fast forward to the nineteen sixties

It was 1966. Paddington was alive with artists and artisans and hand printed fabrics were all the go. Jules & Jim was soon competing with textile queen Molly Shackleton, Julia Blake and velvet printer Genia Osborne. A chance meeting hitchhiking to Adelaide for the Arts Festival began a career in psychedelic hand printed cottons, poplins and corduroys for the tall, skinny pair. Julie Simpson was 27, Jim Clifford, 28, but they both looked younger. They had “employed” each other, pooling their resources (\$10) at midnight in Adelaide; instantly a partnership, the Festival forgotten. It was on their way back that Helen Homewood, (Melbourne’s Maggie Tabberer), a large, stately model with her own TV show, first made the obvious connection, naming the pair after the famous French film. Strange how these things happen, although they lived two streets apart they had not met before. For six months they lived on the bread line, learning the techniques of silkscreen printing. Jim was the designer; they both played with colour-ways and Jules “flogged them.”

Jan Cork, a fey blonde-haired creature with huge eyes and a beaky nose (Jules called her The Ballad of the Unhatched Chick), had inherited a huge printing press from sculptor Clem Meadmore and was making a living printing full-colour gallery catalogues, fliers and business cards. She had boxes of interesting typefaces: Arial Black best suited Jules & Jim.

Usually employed by ABC Radio, Jules had taken a sabbatical to direct a medieval mystery play ‘Adam’ with student actor John Bell in the lead at the Cell Block Theatre, East Sydney Tech. She lived in a “fibro-Tudor loft” one down from the corner of Brown Street and Glenmore Road; a garage with an unlined room on top, linked by an outside wooden staircase. She rented it from Colin Campbell, a working class bloke who “caught Art,” and bought a Colin Lancelly abstract after his mother sold one of her letting houses. She was underwhelmed by his purchase but it still bears a brass plaque naming him as the donor who ‘kindly lent’ it to the Art Gallery of NSW. During this period Jules also had a weekend job, acting as a butler in top hat and tails at Neville Marsh’s lavish parties next door. Neville and Leslie Walford were fierce competitors; both claiming to be ‘the’ interior decorator of the Eastern Suburbs.

The loft soon proved too small for printing the amount of cloth Jules & Jim were exhibiting in various galleries and shops, including Aladdin’s at the Cross. They often fainted from the fumes of a chloroform derivative which made fabric dye dry quickly, so they moved their screens to a printing shop in Toorak Road, South Yarra. It was back to hitchhiking the semis. Jules stood by the highway until the trucks pulled up, then Jim would appear from the bushes with large bolts of cloth in tow. They hitched between Melbourne and Sydney each month for over a year.

Jules needed a gimmick in order to stand out from the business-suited salesmen with their leather sample cases, so she wore a dark blue denim trouser suit printed with Jim’s blood red design called ‘Glass Fields,’ and sported a straw boater trimmed with the same fabric on top of her page boy haircut whenever she went on the road. It worked. One March morning at Myers in Melbourne, after a startled buyer called her in ahead of four or five straight salesmen, he gave her an order worth over \$3,000 -- more money than the pair had ever dreamed of. They needed a loan to buy bulk cloth and to pay the Toorak printers but bank after bank turned Jules down. She finally struck it lucky at the Commonwealth, Kings Cross, where the manager, a white-haired father-figure, took pity on her and gave Jules & Jim a six-month loan, to be re-paid in full on Christmas Eve.

Jim’s designs were often inspired by tile patterns in Paddington porches, art nouveau stained glass, the native art of Zimbabwe, the acidhead art of Haight Ashbury. Myers looked magnificent during June and July, decked with yards of dazzling cloth, including a vibrant Mexican print in black and orange and the sudden splash made by ‘Wild Poppies.’ These two designs were also made into smocks by Grace Bros and worn by the touring Folklorico Ballet in a fashion parade at the Chevron in Sydney. When Jules went back to the Cross at Christmas she found her kindly bank manager had been sacked. He had taken a chance on a number of artists but only Jules & Jim paid back their loan.

Things were looking up for **Jules & Jim** but Jim wanted to paint full time. He was busy preparing his first exhibition at Watters Gallery and he despised the ‘commercial’ side of the business. He was also very shy. Invited to meet two spunky designers from the UK, he hid inside a full length fur coat hanging on a rack on David Jones Top Floor and refused to come out. All Jules could see were his jeans cuffs and worn desert boots. So the pair divvied up their profits and went amicably separate ways. It was the right decision for Jim; at his second exhibition Patrick White snapped up three of his paintings.

And more of this next time.

PADDINGTON SOCIETY COMMITTEE 2008

President:	Robyn Attuell	9361 3877
Vice Presidents:	Bill Morrison	9331 1405
	Krystyna Luczak	9360 4849
Secretary:	Leone Morrison	9361 0864
Treasurer:	Francis Walsh	9363 9572
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	Bill Fraser	9331 3729
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	Will Mrongovius	9331 5954
	John Richardson	9360 2548
	Adrienne Revai	9332 4678
	Graham Stewart	9036 9018
	Michael Wilson	9331 3714

General Contact: Francis Ph: 9363 9572, Fax 9363 9572 or Leone 0409 361 378
Email us on heritage@paddington society.org.au

SUBSCRIPTION FORM

Please mail to the Secretary, P O Box 99, Paddington, 2021 or fax Credit Card Details to 9363 9572.
Enquiries: Francis Walsh 9363 9572

Name:

Address:

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New Member or Renewal

Annual Subscription: \$40 Family \$30 Single \$15 Concession

3 Year Subscription: \$120 Family \$90 Single \$45 Concession

Payment by: Cheque Credit Card Total Amount: \$

Credit Card Details: Visa Mastercard

Card No: / / / / / Expiry Date:

Name on Card

Signature: Today's Date:

Issues of Concern:

I can help with delivery of leaflets: Yes No

I would like to help the Committee in some way. Yes No

Events to come

(bookings for all functions with Leone 9361 0864)

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| May | Sat 31 | <p>Restoration Artisan Series No 1: <i>Australiana Décor from Victorian to Federation</i>
Find out about your house with Paul Storm, collector, explorer of social history and practising glass etcher . An interactive talk with examples of glass etching, rubbings, plaster cornices, and other decorative objects.</p> <p>2.00pm . Venue: St Georges Church Hall, Five Ways Paddington
Families welcome, afternoon refreshments</p> <p>Prices: Members - \$10 family, \$7 single; Non members - \$12 family, \$8 single; concession \$5pp
Enquiries ph 9361 0864 or 9360 6159 or email:
heritage@paddingtonsociety.com. Bookings are not essential but would help with catering the afternoon tea.</p> |
| June | Sun 29 | <p>Know your Own Coffee Shop Series
Mystery coffee shop walk
10.00am at Rear of Juniper Hall (Underwood Street Entrance)
Family friendly – strollers to sticks
Coffee, Tea or Juice with Banana bread or slice
\$8 single, \$15 double and \$18 Parents and children
Local walk taking in the transition of residential, commercial and culture re-use of place
Bookings and enquiries as above, helpful but not essential if you decide at the last minute. Weather check mob: 0409 361 378
(if you cannot make it for the walk ring the mobile at 10.30 to find where to meet for coffee).</p> |
| July | tba | <p>Movies at the Chauvel – special screening</p> |
| July | Sun 20 | <p>Secondhand Sunday WMC Zone 2</p> |
| Aug | Wed 20 | <p>Annual Dinner at Victoria Barracks
with optional <i>The Barracks under the Stars Walk</i>
Bookings for the dinner are essential</p> |
| Sep | 6- 14 | <p>History Week
Sat 6 Juniper Hall Coffee in the old kitchen and guided Paddington walks – <i>Colourful Paddington, Classic Paddington and South of the Border, The migrants' culture trail.</i>
Sun 14 The Big Paddo Picnic – Federation Pavilion, Centennial Park - Bring your own picnic. Fun for the children. Games, music, led bike rides for all ages and just relaxing in the balmy spring outdoors.</p> |
| Nov | Sun 2 | <p>Re-enactment, Victor Trumper Riot, Sydney Cricket Ground
Members invited to take part and dress in period costume, circa 1890-1915
Enquiries: David Strange 0438 106 692</p> |
| Nov | tba | <p>Annual General Meeting</p> |
| Dec | Sun 7 | <p>Paddington Society members and friends Party – Venue tba</p> |